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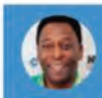

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November 2010

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AS HAS been noted in these pages in the past, the process for deciding the hosts of World Cups has always been a far from transparent affair. The revelations of vote-rigging and bribery, published in *The Sunday Times*, have exposed just how murky the process has become.

We reflect on the 2018 and 2022 World Cup vote-rigging scandal in a major feature, starting on page 22. There may yet be further revelations, but it is already one of the greatest scandals to hit FIFA.

The key issue is that which torments football in general: greed – both financial and political. FIFA thought commercial and TV revenue could be maximised by holding the votes for 2018 and 2022 together.

Similarly, Sepp Blatter was more than happy to have the World Cup hosts decided up until 2022, ensuring that his influence extends well beyond his eventual departure, after a fourth term of office, in 2015.

Yet the double vote has more than doubled the potential for intrigue and private deals, and Blatter has helped to create a crisis of which he may now be the biggest victim.

Next month, assuming no further revelations and assuming the vote goes ahead on December 2, we will preview all the World Cup bids in equal measure. The recent revelations have placed an extra spotlight on the process but the detail of the bids needs to be scrutinised.

Amid all the scandal and double-dealing, we may even be able to squeeze in some football as we preview the Club World Cup. See you then.

GAVIN HAMILTON, Editor
gavin_hamilton@ipcmedia.com

CONTRIBUTORS

Jonathan Wilson, author of the acclaimed *Inverting the Pyramid, A History of Football Tactics*, begins a regular monthly column on tactics (page 62)

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...IN PICTURES

The global game caught on camera

I predict a riot…a Serbian hooligan incites the crowd at the Luigi Ferraris stadium in Genoa prior to the Euro 2012 qualifier between Italy and Serbia. The game was abandoned after six minutes when Serbia fans threw flares onto the pitch and at their Italian counterparts

A load of pants...Montenegro's Mirko Vucinic celebrates his goal against Switzerland in a strange fashion

Tight squeeze...Wales (in red) and Bulgaria battle it out in a Euro 2012 qualifier in Cardiff

Getting to grips...Lacina Traore of CFR Cluj (left) and Roma's Nicolas Burdisso in the Champions League

Close call...England keeper Joe Hart sees Milan Jovanovic's shot hit the bar for Montenegro

Punching above his weight...Stuttgart keeper Sven Ulreich clears against Europa League opponents OB

Rooftop audience...nine months after the Haitian earthquake six young boys find a pitch to play football on in a derelict area of Port-au-Prince, watched by the local neighbourhood

Brian Glanville

...on England's problems against Montenegro... a well-received biography of Alex Ferguson...the United manager's ongoing battle with the BBC...and English football's culture of violence

ENGLAND AND THE confused Fabio Capello could thank their lucky stars that Mirko Vucinic was forced to drop out of the Montenegro team for the European Championship qualifier at Wembley. Far and away his country's outstanding player, and often a trial and torment to English club defences, he'd surely have given the England defence a far harder time than it had on the night.

With pure perversity bordering on the illogical, Capello, having refused the splendidly precocious Jack Wilshere to Stuart Pearce's Under-21 side in Romania, never brought him off the bench at Wembley. He is a player who least can pass the ball to effect. What sense was there in using the 33-year-old Kevin Davies?

The FA's asinine decision not to activate the agreement whereby either party could end Capello's contract after the World Cup has literally proved vastly expensive. Bravo Sir Dave Richards and oh for a Stanley Rous at the top!

And if Milan Jovanovic deserved to give away a penalty, he it was who rattled the English bar.

Leap of faith...England's Davies beats Miodrag Dzudovic of Montenegro

"With pure perversity bordering on the illogical, Capello never brought Wilshere off the bench"

THE latest book about Alex Ferguson, demotically titled *Football – Bloody Hell*, is by the accomplished Patrick Barclay. There have previously been both eulogies and hatchet jobs, and as one would expect from his biographer, the present volume steers an objective middle course.

There is no gainsaying Ferguson's manifold accomplishments as a manager, though his one attempt at international management with Scotland ended in tears in Mexico in the 1986 World Cup. It was rumoured at the time that the refusal of Kenny Dalglish – said to be injured – to take part was caused by Ferguson's refusal to pick his Liverpool club-mate, centre-half Alan Hansen.

Barclay insists that Ferguson was unfairly criticised for omitting Hansen. Ferguson himself wrote curtly in his autobiography: "I simply felt that he did not deserve to go."

Barclay agrees that Hansen, "though a magnificent performer for his club, had withdrawn from too many squads to suggest anything other that he would take unkindly to the likelihood that the consistency of Miller and McLeish would confine him to the substitutes' bench". But deserved?

Strangely moralistic language, suggesting much more could be said. But if this did motivate Dalglish's withdrawal, when he was at the height of his considerable powers, the decision was an expensive one.

It might be argued that for all his multiple successes and his remarkable longevity at Manchester United, the outstanding triumphs of Ferguson's managerial career – and let us not forget that in his day he was no mean centre-forward, good enough to play for Rangers – was at Aberdeen. There he took a club with no European kudos and not only made it a power in Scotland to rival the duopoly of Rangers and Celtic but memorably to defeat mighty Real Madrid in a European Cup-winners Cup Final in Gothenburg. But ironically enough, when Aberdeen came to face Liverpool at Anfield in the European Cup, they were almost casually brushed aside, 4-0.

Barclay compiles a significant and all too vivid picture of how Ferguson, in his rage and disappointment, excoriated his subdued players after the match, then terrorised them into silence on the team coach which took them back to their hotel, threatening draconian fines on anyone who dared to laugh – all evening.

Propelling a boot at a player, Barclay tells us, was not uniquely confined to David Beckham, who as you know stuck plasters over the wound as a gesture of defiance.

The observant Billy Stark, who played for Ferguson at St Mirren and Aberdeen tells in this well researched book of how Ferguson once became infuriated with him after he had walked away from what proved to be a free-kick which led to a goal.

"After the game Ferguson went loopy," recalled Stark. "I was in a corner getting changed when suddenly he threw a boot at me. I was distraught, and yet it was a defining moment.

"I don't believe these incidents were off the cuff. Part of his method was to test players, to see if they had the stuff to go forward rather than buckle."

This is by no means the only violent incident vividly described in the book, but there is perhaps not surprisingly no account of Ferguson ever flinging a boot or anything else,

Order of the boot...Ferguson with Billy Stark

many years later, at Eric Cantona, who in fact constituted perhaps his most inspired and successful transfer. Howard Wilkinson couldn't handle him at Leeds and let him move to Old Trafford for relative peanuts. There, Ferguson, with impressive tact, got the very best out of him.

From these pages, Ferguson hardly emerges as a sympathetic, rather than a consistently successful, figure. But as Saint Just, the French revolutionary, notably remarked, "You can't govern without blood on your hands."

Ferguson's transfer policy has usually been shrewd, sometimes disastrous – as with the case of Laurent Blanc, now France's manager, acquired by United when in his playing dotage, far too slow for the task. Letting Jaap Stam leave for Lazio, where several years of impressive centre-back play lay ahead, was correspondingly mistaken and one recalls an inept Italian goalkeeper.

SPEAKING of keepers, the Tim Howard affair, which Barclay doesn't mention, has long seemed of some significance.

A talented keeper who excelled in France in the Confederations Cup, Howard promptly went to Old Trafford. The news section of my own paper, the *Sunday Times*, ran a well-researched story, telling how United had paid a very large sum to an obscure Italo-Swiss agency for enabling Howard to secure a work permit to play in England. That money was then passed to an English agency, Mike Morris, in Monaco, leaving a percentage with the Italo-Swiss, and thence to Jason Ferguson, Alex's son, running the Elite agency for players in Manchester. But as readers may remember, I'd had two years on the appeals committee of the Department of Employment and knew very well that no agent could ever come near us. So what was going on?

Ferguson, as we know, was famously touchy about Elite and it was because it was criticised in a BBC *Panorama* programme that he has sullenly refused to talk to BBC TV ever since. Still, he also continues to refuse to give press interviews after league matches and the Premier League haven't had the guts to make him.

Tom Bower, in his relentless book about the dark side of English football reports – as Barclay reminds us – that Ferguson encouraged players involved in joining or leaving United to abandon their agents and go to Elite. It has also been reported that he urged new young players to do the same.

ARE the birds at last coming home to roost? Could the culture of violence in our football be halted? We have recently heard a bold trumpet blast from the captain of Fulham, Danny Murphy, whose club has suffered shockingly this season from injury to key forwards.

Bobby Zamora was put out for months by Wolves captain Karl Henry's tackle for which, to be fair, no foul was given. Then Moussa Dembele was lamed by a dire tackle by Stoke City's Andy Wilkinson, deplored by Fulham's manager Mark Hughes for coming so recklessly late in a game Stoke had already won 2-0. Henry was subsequently sent off for a disgraceful foul on Wigan's Jordi Gomez.

A far worse injury was inflicted by Nigel De Jong on Newcastle United's on-loan France winger Hatem Ben Arfa, though he was surprisingly spared by the referee, Martin Atkinson. Infuriated Marseille, Ben Arfa's parent club, are

Dire...Henry was sent off for felling Gomez

threatening to sue De Jong, who, you will hardly forget, should have been dismissed in the World Cup Final for his appalling foul on Xabi Alonso.

As for Stoke, you might call them recidivists. Poor young Aaron Ramsey, Arsenal's splendidly promising Welsh midfielder, has taken many months to recover from the lamentable foul on him by Stoke's Ryan Shawcross.

To the predictable outrage of the League Managers Association, Murphy has indicted the managers of Stoke, Blackburn and Wolves: Tony Pulis, Sam Allardyce and Mick McCarthy.

The manager of Holland, Bert Van Marwijk, belatedly dropped De Jong from his squad for two matches amid accusations of hypocrisy...●

GOALS
WE'D LIKE TO SEE AGAIN...

Biting...Ciani takes in his spectacular lob

1 Henrikh Mkhitaryan, Shakhtar Donetsk v Kryvbas
Perfectly struck from the edge of the box following a knock down

2 Michael Ciani, Bordeaux v Lorient
Dipping lob from 45 yards

Long distance...Maguire

3 Matty Burrows, Glentoran v Portadown
Stunning back-heel volley

4 Adam Szalai, Hungary v San Marino
Neat turn and dipping volley into the top corner

5 Chris Maguire, Scotland U21s v Iceland U21s
Scores direct from the kick off, after the Scots had just conceded themselves

6 Aleksandrs Cauna, Latvia v Georgia
Injury-time scissors kick to equalise in Euro 2012 qualifier

Late saviour...Caunus (No 8)

AND ONE TO FORGET...

Denys Boyko, Dynamo Kyiv v Sheriff
Madness in the Europa League as Dynamo goalkeeper Boyko takes a free-kick within his own area, only to watch the ball strike Sheriff's Alexandr Erokhin and loop back over his head and into the net

To see clips of these goals, visit www.worldsoccer.com

NUMBERS GAME

147
seconds Rennes sub Tongo Hamed Doumbia was on the pitch before being sent off against Lens to set a new Ligue 1 record

20
months since River Plate won a competitive match outside Buenos Aires province

£125m
Manchester City's annual income for the year up to May 31, 2010

£133m
Manchester City's wage bill for the same period

£121m
City's total loss during those 12 months, which was Sheikh Mansour bin Zayed Al Nahyan's first full year in charge

€45m
the total losses UEFA will allow clubs to make over the next three seasons; failure to keep within this limit could result in a ban from European competition

21
goals conceded by San Marino in their first four Euro 2012 qualifiers

178
league goals scored by Alessandro Del Piero for Juventus, equalling the Serie A record set by former Juve striker Giampiero Boniperti

REPORTS we couldn't make up

Wear your colours...Atletico Nacional fan Alvarez

● IT was no pain, no gain as far as Atletico Nacional fan Felipe Alvarez was concerned. In honour of the former Atletico and Colombia defender Andres Escobar, who was murdered after Colombia returned from the 1994 World Cup, Alvarez had Escobar's Nacional No2 shirt tattooed onto his body.

Dedication indeed from 25-year-old Alvarez, who would have only been aged nine when Escobar lost his life.

● FRANKLIN LOBOS, one of the rescued Chilean miners, was once a leading player in Chile's professional league and played alongside a young Ivan Zamorano, who says: "I reckon that when he was trapped down there he would have gone back to the way he was in his playing days. He's a very fiery man who used to drag his team-mates up by their bootstraps.

On the ball...Lobos

"I'm sure he was key to helping them stay alive down there. Back then he was the star of the team and I only played every so often.

"I remember he used to strike free-kicks with his ankle which put a special spin on the ball I've never seen a player repeat it since."

● TOTO SCHILLACI, Italy's goalscoring hero at the 1990 World Cup, has a new career as an actor and he has been cast as a Mafia gangster in a new Italian TV series.

Hit man...Schillaci

"For someone like me who is a great Robert De Niro fan, this was an incredible offer, one I couldn't turn down," said Schillaci, who is 46 in December.

RUMOURS we'd like to believe

● ACCORDING to a Spanish radio station, Sevilla will make a concerted bid in January to sign Roma's unsettled France centre-back Philippe Mexes, who despite rarely featuring for his club this season has forced his way into the plans of new *Les Bleus* boss Laurent Blanc.

● *Il Giorno* in Milan believes that the reigning European champions, Internazionale, are very keen on bringing in Hoffenheim's Bosnia striker Vedad Ibisevic. Their take on Inter's recruitment drive is that coach Rafa Benitez wants both Ibisevic and Liverpool front-runner Dirk Kuyt.

Inter target...Ibisevic

● Although playmaker Joao Moutinho only joined Porto from Sporting Lisbon this summer, *O Jogo* are running a story that Barcelona are set to make a €20million bid for him.

● Another leading Portuguese journal, *A Bola*, are adamant Benfica's Brazilian central defender David Luiz is on his way to Milan next season. Cost of the operation: some £20million.

Barca beckons...Moutinho

Paul Gardner

The lost art of tackling

I'VE LISTENED TO ex-players – defenders, naturally – wax lyrical about the beauty of a clean tackle. Right. Every so often during a match you will hear a round of modest applause as a player cleanly strips an opponent of the ball. By cleanly, I mean without sending the opponent either sprawling or to hospital.

That sort of applause is not heard too much though, because those clean tackles don't happen very often. Tackling, I'm saying, is a dirty business.

Whether it has to be that way, I'm not sure; what I am certain of is that most of the tackling we see is pretty crude stuff. The tackler lunges at the ball, or pokes it or prods it or blocks it or whacks it. Or misses it completely.

A hit-or-miss activity then. Or, as far as the opponent is concerned, a miss-and-hit activity – with the opponent taking the hit part of it.

We know quite a lot about the consequences of that. Eduardo, Stuart Holden, Aaron Ramsey, Bobby Zamora and Hatem Ben Arfa can all remind us, should we have forgotten.

Assuming we want to avoid any more of those incidents, surely the most acceptable solution would be to improve the quality of the tackling. But how on earth do you do that? What team includes in its training, a regular session on tackling? How do you practise tackling? It's not something a player can do on his own, he needs a partner. That's not quite the right word...a target, perhaps?

Well, I suppose you could take some of the academy players and get them to dribble up and down while their elders and not necessarily betters lunge at them. But no one, I think, would be recommending that.

I've consulted a bunch of instructional books on this matter. Some of them give splendidly detailed descriptions of various types of tackle, but none of them includes any practice drills. So tackling will have to remain something that is learned, if at all, on the job. No wonder the skilled tackler is such a rare animal.

What exactly is a tackle, anyway? We can go to the FIFA rule book in search of a definition and we will not find one. In fact, despite its enormous importance – and its worrying tendency to violence – the word "tackle" appears only once in the rules, in Rule 12, though it is mentioned again (once) in the Interpretations section.

I have two encyclopedias of football: one of them omits tackle altogether, the other says "to lawfully take the ball away from a player by using one's feet", which is not bad as a starting point. But there are various types of tackle – like the infamous tackle from behind, supposedly banned in the 1990s, yet still alive and flourishing.

Slide tackles

Some years back, Michel Platini suggested the game would be better off if tackling were banned. The idea seemed to shock just about everyone and it went nowhere. Nevertheless, I want to revisit it, paying particular attention to slide tackles. Which, I think, might well be banned.

In 1967, the English FA's *Guide to Coaching and Training* dealt with the sliding tackle and frowned on it as a "desperate measure". Six years later Charles Hughes, then the FA's assistant director of coaching, published his own manual in which he advised (in his imperious style, it came over as a commandment) "stay on your feet".

However, styles change and players do not seem to want to stay on their feet these days. Sliding tackles abound, not as desperation measures, but as standard operating procedure.

Now this is quite extraordinary, particularly from the refereeing point of view. One thing that most people would agree on is that studs-up tackles are not permitted. Never mind all that "I got the ball, ref" nonsense; if you show your studs it's a foul, and possibly at least a yellow card as well.

Yet sliding tackles come in from all angles and all of them are studs-up tackles. When they go wrong, when contact is made with the opponent, the attitude is that any harm done is unavoidable because the tackle was "mis-timed". That is certainly the attitude of most of the ex-players who infest the television booths.

As the harm done by a reckless or violent sliding tackle is likely to be serious, why not just ban them? Outcries will be heard – can't be done, it would change the game, it wouldn't be football any more, and so on. Yes, it would change the game. That is exactly the idea – to remove from the game a highly questionable, non-refinable, often dangerous skill (a defensive skill of course), and with it the threat of serious injuries.

I have been told of an incident in youth soccer where one of the coaches complained to the referee at half-time that he was allowing too many dangerous tackles from the opposing team. "Your boys are asking for it," said the unsympathetic referee, "They're dribbling too much."

Slide-tacklers, if allowed full rein, would kill off dribbling. So here's the choice: a sport without dribbling or a sport without slide tackling?

I don't think I've ever before found anything in Charles Hughes' diktats to agree with...but, as a corrective to a blight of the modern game, stay on your feet sounds pretty good. ●

"I am certain that most of the tackling we see is pretty crude stuff...a hit-or-miss activity"

Sliding in... Ajax's Remy De Zeeuw catches Marcelo of Real Madrid

Jim Holden

Tackling the problem

BERT VAN MARWIJK has much ground to make up after Holland's deeply cynical and depressingly brutal play in the World Cup Final against Spain. It was a shameful insult to the traditions of Piet Keizer, Johan Cruyff and Marco Van Basten.

Nevertheless, the Holland coach deserves applause for removing Nigel De Jong from his squad for the Euro 2012 qualifiers against Moldova and Sweden in October in response to an appalling tackle by the Manchester City midfielder in a Premier League match that left Newcastle United's Hatem Ben Arfa with his left leg broken in two places.

It can never be too little too late in the eternal fight against reckless foul play that endangers the health of sportsmen. Nobody tends to be more evangelical than a person recently converted to a cause and therefore we should be especially glad that Van Marwijk has moved over from the dark side.

Why? Well, nobody in professional football is more important than the manager in setting the tone for the way a team plays. Like it or not, they are as much stars of modern football as the players – they are paid as much and certainly have more media exposure – and they set out the style and philosophy of a team, be it club or country.

This was a truth acknowledged with eloquence by Danny Murphy when speaking at a recent Leaders in Football Conference in London about the issue of dangerous, flying tackles when players hurtle towards an opponent with both feet off the ground and too often take out the man as well as the ball.

Murphy is a veteran midfielder who captained Fulham to the Final of the Europa League last season, and a former England international who played with distinction for Liverpool and Tottenham Hotspur. He knows what he is talking about – and his powerful words bear repetition.

"I don't believe players go out there to break another player's leg, but if you go at someone at a certain pace and you don't get it right, you are going to hurt them," said Murphy.

"Players need to show more intelligence, especially the ones who are doing it repeatedly. What people also miss is that it's the managers who dictate what players do and how they behave. Every ship has a captain – the manager in charge.

"You get managers who send out their teams to stop other teams playing – the Stokes, the Blackburns, Wolves. They can say it's effective and that they have got to win games, but the fact is the managers are sending out players so pumped up that there are inevitably going to be problems. If you have a manager like Roy Hodgson in charge, who doesn't allow these types of things to go on, then you don't get discipline problems."

Predictably, this upset club bosses in the Premier League – well, some of them anyway – though not Hodgson or Arsene Wenger, who has long campaigned against the scandal of these flying tackles and the damage they cause. The professional body, the League Managers Association (LMA), felt compelled to publish a stern defence of its members who felt wounded by Murphy's words – although not as wounded as players who, like Ben Arfa, have suffered serious injury on the field.

Among the LMA's observations was the classic defence that no manager sends out his players to deliberately hurt opponents. But that misses the crucial point.

Nobody driving a car at 100mph on the roads actively intends to cause a crash that creates a severe injury. But it is a clearly possible consequence of reckless actions. And so it is with flying tackles in the 100mph speed of modern football. Such tackles, where a player loses control of his own momentum and actions, are reckless – and they do needlessly endanger opponents.

Horror show...De Jong's tackle leaves Ben Arfa with a broken leg

Van Marwijk had it correct when he called De Jong's tackle a "wild and unnecessary offence" and that he "pushes to the limits" when he tackles. With football being played at a faster pace than ever, it requires more intelligence and care from all involved.

"Van Marwijk had it correct to call De Jong's challenge a wild and unnecessary offence"

Clearly, the immediate first line of responsibility is with players themselves. It also lies with referees to get decisions right on these tackles. Most of all, though, responsibility falls on managers.

They do set the tone, as Brian Clough proved many years ago as the boss of Nottingham Forest when they twice won the European Cup. He demanded players show no dissent on the field – and they heeded his words because they knew the alternative was being out of the team.

The plain truth is that if managers do not tolerate flying tackles, and if they follow the lead of Bert Van Marwijk in refusing to select players who commit them, then those shocking tackles will cease to occur. ●

HEROES...

On the up...West Brom boss Di Matteo

● ROBERTO DI MATTEO

Steered unfancied West Bromwich Albion to the higher echelons of the Premier League with an impressive four points from a possible six away to Arsenal and Manchester United.

● DAVID VILLA

The Barcelona striker, whose father and grandfather were miners, sent two signed shirts to the rescued miners in Chile.

● SIMON ROLFES

Scored twice in 10 minutes to secure a 3-2 win after coming on as a 70th minute sub for Bayer Leverkusen who were trailing 2-0 at Wolfsburg.

● MARVIN OGUNJIMI

Two goals on his international debut after appearing as a second-half sub for Belgium away to Kazakhstan. He followed that up with one more in the 4-4 draw at home to Austria.

Great start...Ogunjimi

& VILLAINS

● CAGLIARI SUPPORTERS

The Italian club was fined £25,000 by the Italian league for fans' racist taunts directed at Internazionale striker Samuel Eto'o.

● IVAN BOGDANOV

The Serbian thug who orchestrated the riots in Genoa.

Hooligan...Bogdanov

Clanger...Van der Sar

● EDWIN VAN DER SAR

Forget Wayne Rooney being left on the bench; if the experienced Dutchman had not made a Sunday-morning error against West Brom, the points would have been in the bag for United.

● CRAIG LEVEIN

For not fielding a striker away to Czech Republic in what was a very winnable game for Scotland.

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12 STORIES YOU NEED TO KNOW ABOUT

UNITED STATES
Red Sox owner buys Liverpool

John W Henry, owner of baseball side Boston Red Sox, won a complex legal battle to succeed Tom Hicks and George Gillett as the owner of Liverpool. More, page 19

FRANCE
Surprise at the top

Rennes were the early leaders of Ligue 1, closely followed by Saint-Etienne. More, page 40

ENGLAND
Rooney's U-turn

Wayne Rooney performed a spectacular about-turn by agreeing a new five-year contract with Manchester United. More, page 17

MEXICO
No easy task

Manuel De la Torre was unveiled as the new national coach. More, page 31

SPAIN
Solid and spectacular

Jose Mourinho has added defensive solidity to Real Madrid. More, page 36

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Pele at 70

A film by a renowned film director celebrates Pele as he turns 70, page 16

ITALY
Dark night in Genoa

The Euro 2012 qualifier against Serbia was abandoned following violence from Serbian hooligans. More, page 32

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The Bundesliga had surprise early leaders. More, page 28

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Bribes, bans and blackmail
Preparations for Euro 2012 have been overshadowed by a match-fixing scandal. More, page 44

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FIFA was forced to act to diffuse a deepening crisis over reports of vote-rigging in the bidding process for 2018 and 2022. More, page 22

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Alberto Zaccheroni led the Blue Samurai to victory over Argentina. More, page 39

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Eneramo's punch floors Al Ahly
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Pele
Film tribute to legend on 70th birthday

BRAZIL

HAVING TURNED 70 in October, Pele has now been an ex-footballer for almost half of his life, yet he remains one of the most instantly recognisable faces on the planet, can still command a fortune in advertising contracts and, remarkably, does not have the appearance of someone who last kicked a competitive ball back in 1977.

This is a point underlined in a short film produced earlier this year by Fernando Meirelles, of *City of God* fame. Entitled *1284*, the director's latest offering makes a wish come true for Pele by "allowing" him to score one last goal – he claims to have scored a total of 1,283 – for Brazil against Argentina.

Beautifully shot, the film captures the media interest in the return of the aged superstar, the hopes in the crowd that he will be good enough, and the apprehension that he might not be. Pele clips the bar with a free-kick and has a header tipped over, but he cuts a tired figure, struggling with the pace and easy prey for harsh tackling. The Argentinian commentators criticise his performance and say that he is at an age when he should be propped up on the settee with the remote control in his hands – until, that is, deep in his own half, Pele spots the opposing goal keeper off his line and lets fly.

As the ball sails into the Argentinian net, a caption reads: "He scored 1,283 goals for us – he deserved us scoring a goal for him".

The film is a superb tribute to a man with a solid claim to be considered the greatest of all time. But there is a price to be paid for the global acclaim and the importance of Pele as a symbol of success in the country of his birth.

While the image portrayed of Pele is always that of a happy, smiling figure, behind the smile the real human being is surely a more complex, driven character – and he would have needed to have been that to make the journey from provincial poverty to being crowned king of the world game.

But if there are aspects of myth building about the man, there are certainly none about the player. Pele was a machine for playing football, a blend of all-round technique, pace, power, vision, coolness and intelligence.

Always associated with the World Cup, it is astonishing to think that the tournament never saw him at his best. In 1958 he was an exuberant 17-year-old, full of tricks but yet to mature physically. By 1970 he was an encyclopaedia of the game, but heavier and less dynamic. In 1966 he was a victim of the violence of his opponents.

Maybe 1962 should have been the one – what 86 is to Maradona – as it was the year when he produced his best-ever performance, destroying Benfica in Lisbon in the second leg of the World Club Cup. In the World Cup, though, he was injured in the second game. However, in the opening match against Mexico he scored a goal of extraordinary individual brilliance, charging through the entire defence like some kind of super-being – a spectacle even more dazzling than goal 1,284.

Tim Vickery

Re-signed...Rooney remains a United player after agreeing a five-year deal at Old Trafford

Wayne Rooney
United forward secures record pay deal after contract U-turn

ENGLAND

AFTER THE CRUYFF turn, comes the Rooney U-turn. Or, rather, the Rooney money grab. Just days after apparently signalling his likely exit from Old Trafford, Wayne Rooney performed a spectacular about-turn by agreeing a new five-year deal that will make him Manchester United's best-paid player on a reported salary of £180,000 a week.

The change of heart provided a dramatic final twist in an extraordinary sequence of events that was played out – unusually for United – in public.

It had begun with a row over Rooney's fitness, with the player using the public opportunity provided by the Wembley mixed zone after England's draw with Montenegro to question United's claim that he was carrying an ankle injury.

It continued with an extraordinary press conference from Alex Ferguson ahead of United's Champions League game at home to Bursaspor.

The United manager claimed he was "dumbfounded" to learn from Rooney's agent, Paul Stretford, that the player would not be seeking a renewal of the contract that was due to expire in the summer of 2012.

Rooney countered the next day by questioning United's ambition.

"[Chief executive David Gill] did not give me any of the assurances I was seeking about the future squad," he said, adding: "Despite recent difficulties, I know I will always owe Sir Alex a huge debt. He is a great manager and mentor who has helped and supported me from the day he signed me from Everton."

The comments sparked frenzied speculation that a move in the January transfer window was imminent, with arch-rivals Manchester City set to take advantage of Rooney's plummeting transfer market value.

And yet, before the week was out, United announced that Rooney had agreed a new long-term deal. A photo was released of a smiling Ferguson with his arm around Rooney after the player had put pen to paper on a new deal.

"I'm sure the fans over the last week have felt let down by what they've read and seen," Rooney said. "But my position was from concern over the future. The fans have been brilliant with me since I arrived and it's up to me, through my performances, to win them over again.

"I'm delighted to sign another deal at United. In the last couple of days, I've talked to the manager and the owners and they've convinced me this is where I belong. I said on Wednesday the manager's a genius and it's his belief and support that have convinced me to stay."

In theory, Rooney's new deal should now put the issue to bed, but there remains a possibility that Rooney could still leave United next summer or the year after.

A gentleman's agreement, similar to that struck with Cristiano Ronaldo in the summer of 2008, may have been done whereby Rooney agrees to play for one more season. By signing a new contract, Rooney has ensured that any buyer will have to pay United a large transfer fee, possibly even break the world record.

Nobody knows for certain – and after recent events, anything is possible.

Gavin Hamilton

Jong Tae-se
Mixed start for weeping World Cup star

GERMANY

JONG TAE-SE, the North Korea striker who cried at the World Cup during his country's national anthem, has managed to upset his new club boss months after his move to Bochum.

The 26-year-old had been facing a ban after video evidence appeared to show him kicking out at an opponent during an encounter with Fortuna Dusseldorf in September in the Bundesliga's second tier. But even though the German FA decided not to punish Jong, Bochum coach Friedhelm Funkel warned: "I am going to talk to him because he needs to control himself."

Despite the furore surrounding that incident, the Dusseldorf game saw Jong continue a fine burst of form with the only goal in a 1-0 away win.

As far as new beginnings go, it has been a decent start to life in Europe after impressing with his performances at the World Cup, where North Korea began their campaign with a respectable 2-1 reverse against Brazil, before being torn apart by Portugal and the Ivory Coast, 7-0 and 3-0 respectively and returning home to face the wrath of the country's "Supreme Leader", Kim Jong-il.

There were reports that the home-based players and coaches were punished for their heavy defeats but Jong , who played for Kawasaki Frontale in Japan's J.League, escaped the ignominy to secure a move to Europe.

However, for all the joy of the success and possible regret over the plight of his cohorts, it was not the transfer he had dreamed about. Jong had failed to score in South Africa, despite saying he would endeavour to do so in every game, and managed only five shots on target. Before the tournament, he also said he was looking to secure a move to the Premier League.

But any signs of disappointment were conspicuous by their absence on his German debut in August. The confident striker could not have scripted a more dramatic start as he proved a constant nuisance, scoring twice in a 3-2 victory for his new side over 1860 Munich. Jong then added to his tally with the final goal in a 3-1 win over Arminia Bielefeld five days before the game in Dusseldorf.

Although he identifies himself as North Korean, only his father can rightfully claim such heritage. Jong's mother is South Korean, while he himself is a third-generation ethnic Korean, born and raised his entire life in Japan.

While his dream move to England failed to materialise, his early goalscoring form in Bundesliga 2 suggests that the chances of it eventually coming true at a future juncture cannot be ruled out – despite Jong struggling for match fitness due to often starting on the bench.

And Funkel appears acutely aware of possible shortcomings in the North Korean's game.

After the striker's debut heroics, Bochum's coach had to temper the player's post-match declaration that he was aiming to be the league's top goalscorer. "He needs a little more time," said Funkel. "You could see that he was exhausted after 65 to 70 minutes."

Now, after being recalled to the starting line-up for the Bielefeld match, Jong looks to have answered his critics in style with an assist for the opening goal and then a slick finish from an acute angle after rounding the goalkeeper.

As he left the pitch afterwards he told reporters: "I'm happy I got my confidence back."

With that kind of resilience, those who scoffed at his boasts may not have heard the last from the man who announced his arrival on the world stage by crying like a baby.

Bryan Kay

Mixed emotional...Jong slips the ball past Michael Melka to score for Bochum against Fortuna Dusseldorf and, inset, during North Korea's national anthem at the World Cup

John W Henry
American ousts Americans at Anfield

ENGLAND

DOES John W Henry, Liverpool's new owner, know what he has let himself in for? The billionaire owner of US baseball side Boston Red Sox paid £300million, through his company New England Sports Ventures (NESV), to buy the Premier League club after fighting off legal action by previous owners Tom Hicks and George Gillett to prevent the sale.

After a tense courtroom drama ruled in Henry's favour, Hicks blamed a "conspiracy of British establishment" and then dropped a £1billion compensation claim for "an extraordinary swindle".

Now Henry faces the challenge of arresting Liverpool's long-term decline. Manager Roy Hodgson is under pressure over poor results which led to them dropping into the relegation zone and being dumped out of the League Cup by fourth-tier Northampton Town.

On top of that there are the unsettling reports of mutiny within the ranks, with Spain striker Fernando Torres repeatedly linked with a move away from Merseyside.

Another burning issue Henry must deal with is the dilemma of whether to upgrade Anfield or build a bigger stadium elsewhere – a similar situation to the one that confronted NESV when they acquired the Red Sox and their Fenway Park home in 2002.

"We have to listen, learn, talk to the community, talk to the council, talk with the supporters," Henry said.

The bespectacled, mild-mannered Henry appears to be cut from a different cloth to the brash Texans, Hicks and Gillett, whose time at Liverpool will be forever associated with leveraged debt and over-extended credit. But while he has made all the right noises since arriving on Merseyside so, originally, did Hicks and Gillett.

John Holmesdale

New owner...Liverpool fans will hope Henry can help the club move forward

Chung Mong-joon
Hint at challenge to Blatter

SOUTH KOREA

Important role...FIFA vice-president Chung

STANDING well over six feet tall, Chung Mong-joon cuts an impressive figure as he works a room of FIFA dignitaries.

As a vice-president of the world governing body and an executive committee member since 1994, Chung has been an important figure behind the scenes at FIFA for many years. And he could yet play an extremely important role in the organisations's future.

The Korean stole the headlines at the Leaders in Football conference in London when he dropped the strongest hint yet that there would be an Asian challenger to Sepp Blatter in next summer's FIFA presidential election.

"To keep an organisation like FIFA healthy, you need competition," he said. And when asked if a challenge would be a good thing, he replied: "You need challenge and competition at the summit of anything – FIFA, or the summit of a mountain. We need to keep FIFA healthy.

"The world football family has to encourage competition, there are good people among existing FIFA executive-committee members. You must encourage competition; we could have a candidate from Asia or other confederations. We had better try to find good competition and good candidates."

In the complex protocol of FIFA politics, that is as close to a declaration of intent as Chung is likely to come.

Mohamed Bin Hammam of Qatar, the president of the Asian Football Confederation, re-iterated that he had no plans to stand against Blatter, but agreed there "could well be an Asian candidate for 2011".

A week after making his comments in Europe, Chung told Korean media that he was "not thinking about running for the presidency in 2011".

However, the recent cash-for-votes scandal has exposed the vulnerability of Sepp Blatter to a presidential challenge.

Gavin Hamilton

Keir Radnedge

Broadcast news

World Cup viewing figures make good reading for FIFA

No hairy TV moments...a Sao Paulo barber makes sure his client does not miss Brazil's game with Chile in South Africa

SOUTH AFRICA 2010 is history, and 2018 and 2022 are still fantasy financial footballs. So what can we expect from the World Cup in Brazil in less than four years' time? Plenty of hard travellin', it seems; not so much samba soccer but the Woody Guthrie World Cup.

This is the cautionary assessment of Francis Tellier, chief executive of Host Broadcast Services, which constructs the television production services from what is generally considered as international sport's most popular broadcasting event.

"If South Africa was a logistical challenge because of the country's size, then I can tell you that Brazil is an even bigger challenge," says Tellier. "When we took our broadcasters on a venues tour in South Africa it was 3,000km; if we do that in Brazil then visiting the 12 stadia will mean 11,000km. That should give some idea of the logistical complications.

"We also have some telecommunications challenges. For example, fibre optics need to cross the Amazon to reach Manaus. Issues such as these are why we start work four years before the finals. There is a lot on our plate. It's not three years of vacation and one of hard work; that's completely wrong."

This is why, for example, FIFA decided to extend the working time between host award and finals. Working seven years in advance – as with 2018 – is fine and in line with the Olympic Games schedule. Of course, throwing in 2022 was clearly a step too far but that is another story entirely.

> **Fibre optics need to cross the Amazon to reach Manaus. That's why we start work four years before the finals**
>
> *Francis Tellier*

I heard Tellier and FIFA TV director Niclas Ericson tell the Sportel conference in Monaco how pleased they had been not only with the success of the broadcasting operation out of South Africa – it seems that, from a live TV perspective, which is how 99.9 per cent recurring of the Earth's population see the World Cup, comparatively little went wrong.

Certainly nothing to compare with the trials and tribulations endured during the live football experienced by Messrs Capello, Domenech, Lippi and Co.

Logistical capabilities

According to Ericson, "South Africa delivered spectacularly". Those who recall that the winners, Spain, managed barely more than a goal a game, and who believe that quality football was notable by its large-scale absence, may be surprised to hear that. But Ericson was, after all, talking only about the hosts' logistical capabilities after so much pre-finals doom-mongering.

The statistics are fine – as far as they go. Covering 64 live matches in 10 venues over 31 days demanded 32 cameras per game, with seven production crews (from England, Germany and France), plus individually assigned crews pursuing each of the 32 finalists for the first time. That added up to 2,500 personnel from 65 nations, generating 2,000 hours of match footage plus 46 hours of non-match footage and 480 features.

However, the one statistic beyond Ericson and Tellier is how many fans watched the product of their work worldwide. Cynics might wonder if this is because figures were not as good as FIFA had hoped, that some of the early bore-draws prompted a worldwide switch off.

Certainly not, says Ericson. It's just that FIFA wants to produce properly audited figures rather than educated guesstimates. All will be revealed later this year.

Anyway, he and Tellier have found a new toy of which even techno-resistant Sepp Blatter might approve. This is 3D, which, while in its novelty-factor infancy, makes a fascination of even the most tedious goalless draw.

Forget about brightening up the World Cup with bigger goals or bigger pitches or fewer players or smaller players or more golden goals, silver goals and platinum goals. Just show every millisecond of Brazil 2014 in 3D.

Who knows? Even the viewing figures may start jumping out of the screen at us. ●

Read more from Keir Radnedge at worldsoccer.com

Germany's Steinhaus deserves respect

Female official...Steinhaus

THE place for women's football in the grand scheme of the game may become a little clearer next year after the "other" World Cup finals in Germany. Certainly home referee Bibiana Steinhaus believes they will be "one of the best ever" in terms of both the football on view and the atmosphere around the tournament. But then, she would say that, wouldn't she?

Comparing the prospects for 2011 with the party atmosphere at the men's finals in Germany in 2006, Steinhaus says: "It won't be the same party – it will be more of a female party. But already there is a lot of promotional work going on and ticket sales so far have been amazing. It will be one of the best ever in terms of quality."

Readers who glaze over at the mention of women's football should indulge me here because Steinhaus' refereeing style raises an intriguing point about the fraught relationship between players and officials right across the board.

The context is that Steinhaus is a German men's second-division referee and has been on the FIFA women's list since 2005, though her prospects of refereeing the WWC Final are minimal since the hosts themselves are very likely to be involved.

The 31-year-old from Hanover compares her role as a referee with her full-time job as a police commissioner. She says: "In both cases it's about judging people's actions, taking care that the rules are observed. Whether I agree with them or not is immaterial: I have to handle it."

Now, think back to the high-visibility failure of the Respect campaign in English football. The perception was that this was all about player behaviour and managerial outbursts.

Steinhaus features in a fascinating film clip for which she was "wired" while refereeing a German (men's) second-division game.

English officials may address a player by first name (old friends and adversaries), by surname or by number. However, as she called players to order around the pitch, Steinhaus is clearly heard addressing them as: "Herr Schmidt... Herr Werner...Herr Kraus."

Distance and formality add up to respect working the other way.

The International Football Board needs to remember that as it revives its consideration of goal-line technology. The players deserve the respect that the game's rulers do whatever it takes to get decisions right.

United singing the wrong Rooney tune

WAYNE ROONEY is becoming a one-man question mark – never mind his personal problems, his damaged or undamaged ankle and his on or off contract talks.

Before Manchester United played at Everton, Goodison boss David Moyes was asked whether adverse fan reaction would affect Rooney's performance. This was a question for a gossip columnist, replied Moyes, not a football reporter.

Wrong. It was a specific question about a match issue...and United manager Alex Ferguson proved the point by omitting Rooney from his squad altogether.

Then, it seems, reporters were told after United's game against West Bromwich Albion that they could not ask questions about Rooney.

Frankly, reporters are not Manchester United employees. If Ferguson, his staff and his players choose not to answer questions that is their right. Trying to dictate the debate can only backfire...as it did in the subsequent flood of "Rooney crisis" stories and headlines.

Answers or no answers, the media still has its column inches and screen space to fill. Antagonism equals provocation equals bigger headlines.

Ferguson's choice...a glum Rooney (second right) is reduced to a place on the United bench against West Brom

World Cup for sale?

Keir Radnedge reports from Zurich on the investigation by football's governing body into allegations of vote-rigging in the bidding process for 2018 and 2022

"TRUST US," PLEADED Sepp Blatter a few minutes after FIFA ethics chief Claudio Sulser had formalised the weight and severity of the charges being laid in the World Cup vote-rigging scandal.

But the president's plea was an "ask" too much from the head of an organisation which has found prima facie reasons to suspend provisionally six senior members of the "family", including two current members of the all-powerful, governing executive committee and four former members.

Blatter and Co might like to think again about the use of the word "family", which has certain unfortunate connotations when used in the context of a vast, commercially successful, male-dominated empire.

Trust has to be earned and right now the jury of public opinion is even further out than Sulser's ethics committee. Certainly none of the goals Sulser scored in a stellar career with Grasshopper and Switzerland can compare with the goal of cleaning up FIFA's act.

Whether he can achieve this is doubtful. The underlying challenge facing 55-year-old Sulser is that his committee owes its existence, after all, to FIFA itself.

If the investigation into Amos Adamu and Reynald Temarii first and foremost, as well as into Slim Aloulou, Amadou Diakite, Ahongalu Fusimalohi and Ismael Bhamjee, were being conducted by an independent offshoot of, say, the Court of Arbitration for Sport, it would carry more weight, gravitas, and – to use Blatter's word – trust.

This is not to doubt Sulser's integrity and intent. But the path ahead is a steep and awkward one, not the least because he has set himself a deadline of between November 15 and 17.

That is an ambitious target to resolve what is already one of the greatest scandals in FIFA's history.

Even the promise of speed owes everything to FIFA's agenda and the world federation needs, for the sake of its tattered credibility, to be seen to be reacting swiftly to the scandal; and the executive committee – or what may be left of it – has to decide on December 2 the hosts of the World Cups of 2018 and 2022.

FIFA cannot delay the vote. A

Read more from Keir Radnedge at worldsoccer.com

postponement would create a vacuum for even more poisonous speculation and would give the impression that the media – and, more specifically, *The Sunday Times* – has the governing authority of world football on the run. Also, that would mean running over into a presidential election year which might be construed as distracting.

In the immediacy, Sulser is investigating not only the six men whose identities are public knowledge, but two bids accused, in direct contravention of bidding regulations, of collusion over voting intentions. Sulser refused to name them but subsequent reports suggested Spain and Qatar.

Certainly this aspect of the inquiry is not related to the

FIFA cannot delay the vote. A postponement would create a vacuum for even more poisonous speculation

Inquisition... Sulser (left) and Valcke answer questions

Russia/Spain/referees fantasy which the then-FA head and England bid president Lord Triesman had unwound over his fatal dinner assignation with his mysteriously-wired former researcher.

Was Triesman the victim of a one-off entrapment or caught up in a campaign of insidious dirty tricks? Here again the jury is out.

England then, like FIFA, reacted as quickly as possible, but the smear was out and about. Similarly, Russia CEO Alexei Sorokin insists he was quoted out of context when talking about crime levels in London, but whatever the clarification or apology, here is another cat which will not be going back into the bag any time soon.

Whispers in the corridor corners in the massive, imposing and forbidding new House of Football, hidden over the crest of the hills which look down on Zurich, hint that – Amadu and Temarii apart – no fewer than five other exco members might be concerned about what may yet emerge or what may be hidden in the supporting material which *The Sunday Times* has presented to Sulser – with a promise of not to publish yet.

Murky business has always surrounded host bidding in the World Cup and Olympic Games arenas because of the ever-expanding commercial, sporting, cultural and personal/financial potential. Every voting member of the FIFA exco and the International Olympic Committee does so on behalf of a variety of constituencies which include his or her FIFA or IOC duty, regional responsibilities, national power base and personal business interests.

> **"Whispers in the corridor corners in the new House of Football hint – Amadu and Temarii apart – that no fewer than five other exco members might be concerned about what may yet emerge"**

These are, as Sulser and Blatter underlined in turn, human beings, after all.

Fight for fair play

Blatter has always included this caveat in his addresses to the wider world and his statement late in the evening of October 20 was no exception. "You can never guarantee, in a game with one billion participants, that everybody behaves as we would like," he said. "Our society is full of devils and you find them even in football which is why we have to fight for fair play."

The devil, in this case, is not in the detail but in the grey areas. What is permissible and what is beyond-the-fringe rub shoulders within a cloud of subjective compromise which smiles on one manoeuvre but frowns on another. What is the difference, for example, between financing a grassroots academy in the South Seas and turning up there with David Beckham's travelling academy in tow?

"We cannot always be having sunny days," said Blatter and, truly, there is nothing new under the World Cup bidding sun. To go all the way back to square one: Uruguay swung the award of the inaugural World Cup because the nation's ambassador to France promised FIFA president Jules Rimet that his country would meet all the competing nations' costs.

Years later members of the United States bid delegation – replete with Henry Kissinger at the height of his persuasive political power – were incandescent that their thorough and lengthy presentation in pursuit of the 1986 finals (after Colombia withdrew) was rendered null and void by Mexico's simple and perfunctory "Hello-Havelange-how-are-you?" tactic.

In 2000 FIFA president Sepp Blatter was poised to use his casting vote in favour of the South Africans when it appeared they were neck-and-neck with Germany. Then Oceania president Charlie Dempsey ran off home on the eve of the vote – blaming threats to his family. Germany collected 12 votes and South Africa 11...and Blatter's casting vote was never needed.

That was the reason FIFA engineered the introduction of rotation, with Africa as the first beneficiary. It was supposed to be a cake walk for the South Africans, particularly with Nelson Mandela in his hotel down the Zurich road awaiting the summons. It wasn't.

Suspended by FIFA

The six suspended provisionally by FIFA's ethics committee for 30 days from October 20, with the possibility of a suspension extension for a further 20 days, are:

Pitches...Adamu

CAF member...Diakite

Player...Temarii

Tickets...Bhamjee

Disputes...Aloulou

AMOS ADAMU
Nigeria. Born December 31, 1952. FIFA exco member since 2006, president of the West African Football Union, member of CAF, former director of the Nigerian national sports commission.
* Alleged to have been prepared to accept a sum of $800,000 for four artificial pitches in exchange for his vote.

AMADOU DIAKITE
Mali. Former FIFA exco member, CAF exco.

REYNALD TEMARII
Tahiti, but French nationality. Born July 2, 1967. FIFA exco member since 2004, president of the Oceania confederation, former player with Nantes in France, former governmental adviser in French Polynesia.
* Alleged to have been prepared to accept £1.5million to build a sports academy in exchange for his vote.

SLIM ALOULOU
Tunisia. Former FIFA exco member, chairman of FIFA's disputes resolution panel.
* Alleged to have estimated cost of a World Cup bid vote at $1m.

AHONGALU FUSIMALOHI
Tonga. Former FIFA exco member).
* Alleged to have said he had been offered money to vote for Morocco in the 2010 World Cup bidding campaign.

ISMAEL BHAMJEE
Botswana. Former FIFA exco member expelled for selling World Cup tickets on the black market.
* Alleged to have named three members of the FIFA exco who were paid between £250,000 and £1m for their votes for the 2010 World Cup host.

(All have denied the allegations on varied grounds including being quoted out of context and having acquiesced in discussions as a pretence)

South Africa beat off Morocco in the end but one of the almost hidden tales uncovered by *The Sunday Times* was the suggestion that most of the votes which carried the day for South Africa did not come from within its own African confederation.

This may yet come back to haunt long-serving CAF president Issa Hayatou; there are hunters out there with eyes on his job and a will to see his "retirement".

Job security is an issue for Blatter, too. Mohamed Bin Hammam and Chung Mong-joon had both hinted they might run for president next year, then stepped back from the brink. Realistically, putting themselves up against Blatter would not have been politically wise just when their home nations of Qatar and South Korea bidding to host the 2022 World Cup.

Blatter himself has been able to remain above the scandal. Indeed, in his words and demeanour after the initial suspensions had been announced resembled those – a day earlier – of another veteran power-broker, Alex Ferguson. Both Blatter and Ferguson (over Wayne Rooney) projected themselves as sad father-figures both bemused and saddened by the behaviour of their wayward children.

The 15-strong ethics committee had already been due to meet in Zurich on October 20 when the World Cup votes scandal broke. The general business meeting went ahead as scheduled in the morning with the investigatory session – which included hearing from Adamu and Temarii – in the afternoon.

Excused from the investigatory work were Burton Haimes of the United States and Les Murray of Australia since both hail from bidding nations. Both Adamu and Temarii had already undergone private meetings with Blatter from which both apparently emerged looking none too happy, to put it mildly.

Both had spoken in the belief that the approaches came, as *The Sunday Times* reporters had presented themselves, as United States businessmen. It was always made clear that the US bid itself was in

Countdown to December 2

FIFA's executive committee is due to vote on December 2 on the host nations for the 2018 and 2022 World Cups. This is the first time that two World Cups have been decided simultaneously and so far in advance.

The 2018 World Cup will take place in Europe. This was ensured when the United States became the last of the non-Europeans to withdraw their original interest in 2018. All the remaining 2022 bids are from the Asian confederation, with the exception of the United States.

- 2018: England, Holland/Belgium, Russia, Spain/Portugal
- 2022: Australia, Japan, Qatar, South Korea, USA

All the bids have one member on the FIFA executive with the exception of Australia.

THE ETHICS COMMITTEE

Claudio Sulser (Switzerland, chairman)
Petrus Damaseb (Namibia, vice-chairman),
Gabriel Abossolo (Cameroon)
Ariel Alvarado (Panama)
Jorge Ivan Palacio (Colombia)
Juan Pedro Damiani (Uruguay)
Abdoulaye Mokhtar Diop (Senegal)
Burton K Haimes (United States)
Gunter Hirsch (Germany)
Les Murray (Australia)
Dominique Rocheteau (France)
Roosje Suwae (Papua New Guinea)
Dali Tahir (Indonesia)
Robert Torres (Guam)
Sondre Kaafjord (Norway)

Note: Haimes and Murray were excused from the Adamu/Temarii inquiry because of a conflict of interest since the US and Australia are World Cup bidders.

> **"Somewhere to the side of the legal minefield was the questionable political issue as to why the executive had decided to vote on two World Cups simultaneously in the first place"**

no way involved nor under any sort of suspicion.

Sulser, promising a "zero tolerance" approach, said that the suspension decisions had been unanimous while secretary general Jerome Valcke reiterated that the various bid committees had been kept fully informed throughout the year of the rules and regulations governing the process. These included a formal warning against voting "collusion".

Valcke regretted that such an issue had erupted so soon after the great success – on a football and social level – of the 2010 World Cup finals in South Africa.

He added: "This is why it was best to ask ethics committee to look at that case and start an investigation to make sure that no one will be able to say that the process, and the decision in December, can be challenged because we have not done everything to make sure it's a fair and transparent decision."

Ground rules

The process complicated the work of the FIFA executive whose next meeting was due to set out the ground rules for the vote. Presentations by bidding nations are due to be heard on December 1 and the morning of December 2 with the votes taking place in the afternoon.

Whether the voting can go ahead with 22 members was open to question after the initial suspensions. Whatever the eventual judgments on Adamu and Temarii it is clear that, even if found innocent, their presence within the voting chamber would be compromised.

On the other hand, some bid officials suggested that the original contract had guaranteed a voting total of 24 and it would be unfair to deny some or any of the bids potential votes of which they believed they had been credibly guaranteed.

Somewhere to the side of the legal minefield was the questionable political issue, never satisfactorily answered, as to why the executive had decided to vote on two World Cups simultaneously in the first place.

No one has stood up to claim it was his bright idea and surely no one will now that the ploy has backfired to such spectacularly damaging effect to the credibility of FIFA and of football. As noted above, suspicion always lurks around the corner in event bidding and FIFA, in deciding on two-for-the-price-of-one, only doubled the potential for mischief.

The executive committee itself sowed the wind...now it is reaping a whirlwind of scandal. ●

Time for a clean sweep...FIFA's headquarters in Zurich

Switzerland star...Sulser

Sulser: ex-pro heading FIFA ethics committee

CLAUDIO SULSER has been chairman of FIFA's ethics committee since March when he was formally appointed as successor to Lord Sebastian Coe, who stepped down after joining England's World Cup bid committee.

Sulser scored 100 goals in 192 league games for Grasshopper between 1977 and 1986, and was twice Swiss league top scorer, as well as having been a Champions Cup leading marksman with 11 goals in 1978-79. He won four Swiss league titles and one Swiss Cup.

The high point of his career was scoring the two goals in the old Hardturm stadium as Grasshopper knocked Real Madrid out of the European Cup quarter-finals in 1979. But he resisted offers to move abroad because, simultaneously, he wanted to secure the legal qualifications which qualify him for his latest footballing position.

The ethics committee was created by FIFA in 2006 with a remit which prevented retrospective action. Thus the various controversies surrounding CONCACAF president Jack Warner and the circumstances of payments by now-collapsed ISL to Nicolas Leoz and Ricardo Teixeira remain untouchable.

Ismail Bhamjee was kicked off the FIFA executive committee for selling 12 World Cup tickets on the black market in 2006, but FIFA found no case to answer against Warner over a conflict of interest issue concerning his son's travel-and-tickets-package business.

Sulser's involvement with World Cup bidding came early when he ran the rule over the Lord Triesman affair, finding no case to pursue. However, he did undertake to take a special note of refereeing at the finals, without any further concerns – not, at least, as far as possible manipulation was concerned.

As he surveyed his day's work on October 20 and the high-pressure month ahead, Sulser conceded: "I did not expect to be kept so busy."

He added: "Human beings sometimes face up to temptation. But I will do whatever I can to protect the image of football. I loved football ever since I was a player which is why I am so sad about all this."

Appeal...Blatter

Blatter asks for trust to restore confidence

FIFA PRESIDENT Sepp Blatter, after the suspensions had been announced, said: "It's a sad day for football and a sad day for FIFA but you cannot always have sunny days.

"We have just accomplished a remarkable and unexpectedly successful World Cup organised for the first time on the African continent where trust and confidence were the keys of success.

"But football is a game in which you have good players and bad players and, as president of FIFA, it is my duty to protect the reputation of football and protect FIFA from any manipulation or bad behaviour.

"Immediately after *The Sunday Times* released the information I informed the executive committee of the situation and we ordered the ethics committee to investigate.

"This is the bad side of football. The good side is that we reacted immediately and the ethics committee has carried out its initial work in a very short time and reached its initial decisions. Now I would appeal for not only the executive committee but all of the FIFA family to behave in an honest, sincere and respectful manner.

"Our game is based on rules by which everyone must abide but we have the tools to intervene when necessary as we have done today."

> **"You can never guarantee, in a game with one billion participants, that everybody behaves as we would like. Our society is full of devils"**

"FIFA is a well recognised institution in the world of sport... let us intervene and clarify the situation because that is what hundreds of millions of fans expect of us.

"You can never guarantee, in a game with one billion participants, that everybody behaves as we would like. Our society is full of devils and you find them even in football which is why we have to fight for fair play.

"Trust us and your confidence will be restored."

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Mainz games

A collection of loanees and no big names, the Rhineland club have taken the Bundesliga by storm this season

GERMANY

NICK BIDWELL in Munich

MAINZ FANS must pinch themselves every time they reflect on their team's remarkable start to this season; a fairy-tale two months that featured seven straight wins and the prize scalps of Bayern Munich, Werder Bremen, Wolfsburg, Stuttgart and Hoffenheim.

After finishing last season's Bundesliga in an excellent ninth place – nirvana for a newly promoted club – supporters of the Rhineland-Palatinate outfit should have been brimming over with optimism this summer. But after goalkeeper Heinz Muller suffered a cruciate ligament injury in pre-season and two key players, captain and goalscoring wing-back Tim Hoogland and leading marksman Aristide Bance, moved to Schalke and Al Ahli of Dubai respectively, there was little about which to be genuinely upbeat.

So how refreshing that they have turned out to be anything but the footballing equivalent of the one-hit wonder. Yes, they have their apparent fault lines: a no-name squad, meagre

Hard to stop...Mainz midfielder Marco Caligiuri (left) tussles with Hoffenheim's Christian Eichner

Mainz man...Risse celebrates his opening goal against Werder Bremen

budget (£12.7million), smallish fan base and only four years' experience in the German top flight. But thanks to the intelligence and rational approach of charismatic coach Thomas Tuchel and general manager Christian Heidel, they are living proof that a well-run corner shop need not necessarily buckle under the weight of the big supermarkets.

Mainz have clearly caught the rest of the competition on the hop. Confronted by their English-style power tactics – combine equal measures of industry, athleticism and strength, blend in an all-points pressing game and serve at a high tempo with lashings of forward runners from deep – not one of their opponents has come remotely close to finding the antidote. Not Wolfsburg, who after going 3-0 up on the half-hour were hit by a four-goal hurricane. Not Bremen, whose 2-0 defeat was their first home defeat for eight months. And certainly not reigning champions Bayern, clinically put to the sword 2-1 by the so-called minnows in their own Allianz Arena backyard.

Blown apart

Perhaps unhappy that the Bundesliga cartel has been blown apart in recent weeks, a number of pundits have sought to minimise the Mainz phenomenon, pointing out that many of their wins have come against teams in crisis. Disingenuous? More than slightly. Their vitality, impudence and unbreakable spirit has been a breath of fresh Alpine air, and the way Tuchel and his players combine as one symbiotic whole has more than a touch of the Jose Mourinho about it.

> **"Mainz are proof that a well-run corner shop need not buckle under the weight of the big supermarkets"**

Rivals may like to think that Mainz do not have the staying power, that by Christmas the likes of Bayern, Schalke and Bremen will wake from their unexpected slumbers and resume normal hierarchical service. However, it might not prove so simple. Mainz not only have the momentum and growing self-belief – in the shape of Germany Under-21 skipper and

Safe hands...goalkeeper Christian Wetklo keeps Bayern Munich at bay

attacking midfielder Lewis Holtby, and forwards such as Marcel Risse, Andre Schurrle and Tunisia's Sami Allagui, they boast some of the most talented youngsters in the league, and their sheer fearlessness and ambition could yet spring more surprises.

Another major weapon in their armoury is Tuchel, a brilliant deviser of match-day strategy whose sums certainly added up in the memorable victory in Munich. By ordering a high-pressing game and making sure Bayern midfield regulators Bastian Schweinsteiger and Mark Van Bommel did not have time and space, the hosts were effectively kept out of harm's way for most of the game. Meanwhile, Tuchel's plan to unleash strikers Allagui and Hungary's Adam Szalai plus gifted playmaker Holtby on the home side's lumbering centre-back pairing of Daniel Van Buyten and Holger Badstuber worked like a dream.

"It's important to make things happen on the pitch," says Tuchel who, at just 37, is the youngest boss in the Bundesliga. "I don't want us to sit back and react. It's more fun and more effective to make the running.

"It's vital to set the tone in a game. We look to win the ball and put the opposition on the back foot as quickly as we can. It's going really well at the moment, much better than we could have envisaged. Now for the hard part – living with all the hype and continuing on our journey. We're up for the challenge. We know we're a competitive team, but also realise there's a long way to go."

Fast acquiring the reputation of Germany's most promising coach, Tuchel has travelled a long way in a very short time. Only 15 months ago he was the totally anonymous head of Mainz's junior section, and when handed the first-team reins in August 2009 – replacing the overly starchy Norwegian Jorn Andersen – pundits believed the club had taken leave of its senses, that rookie coaches and Bundesliga survival did not mix.

> **"I don't want us to sit back and react. It's much more fun to make the running"**
> *Thomas Tuchel*

How wrong they were. Much more communicative than Andersen and far closer to the players, Tuchel forged them into a redoubtable unit, good enough to set up camp in the top 10 and ensure survival almost two months before the end of the campaign. An A-plus effort.

Shout it loud...coach Tuchel joins the fans celebrating victory over Hoffenheim

Like Jurgen Klopp, who first steered Mainz to the Bundesliga in 2004, Tuchel cuts a thoroughly modern and anti-authoritarian figure. "TT" is quite a package. One moment, man of the people, clambering up the Stadion am Bruchweg fencing to celebrate a victory with the fans; the next, erupting with fury at a perceived refereeing mistake.

However, dig beneath the emotional veneer and you discover a surprising array of cerebral attributes: icy-cold calculation, complete tactical flexibility – 4-2-3-1, 4-4-2 and 4-3-1-2 all have been used to good effect – and the skills of a natural-born teacher, able to put his training ground message across with maximum clarity.

Mix and match

One of Tuchel's key principles is the constant rotation of his first team, and in this area he is absolutely devoid of sentiment. Arguing that he has two equally strong players for every position, he radically reshapes his line-up almost every week and, so far, the mix-and-match route – five changes to the side for the trip to Bayern and four when going to Bremen – has served him well. Everyone therefore stays fresh and, with no favourites in the squad, they are all kept on their toes.

Mainz's problems relate more to the long term than the present. As with all over-achieving provincial teams, sooner or later they tend to be raided by the big boys and that could easily happen here. Tuchel has been linked to take over from veteran Jupp Heynckes at Leverkusen, who have already struck a deal to bring in 19-year-old Schurrle next summer.

What's more, a large proportion of the squad are only on loan: Holtby (Schalke), Risse (Leverkusen), Szalai (Real Madrid), Austrian wing-back Christian Fuchs (Bochum) and Denmark striker Morten Rasmussen (Celtic). Holtby apart, Mainz have the option to buy them all but, given their stretched finances, such a spending spree might not be sustainable.

"We have to live within our means and could not turn down the €10m Leverkusen offered us for Schurrle," says Heidel, who just five years ago earned his corn as the boss of a car showroom. "Unlike clubs such as Hoffenheim and Wolfsburg we don't have external income streams. We have to get by with continuity, good ideas and talent spotting. I want us to be the natural home to the best young players in Germany."

It looks as if Mainz can be trusted with that promise. ●

No easy task

El Tricolor's new coach has a lot to attend to

MEXICO
MARTIN DEL PALACIO LANGER
in Mexico City

NEW NATIONAL COACH Jose Manuel De la Torre says his prime objective is to steer Mexico to the World Cup finals in Brazil 2014, but the fact remains that he faces a much more immediate task in regaining the trust of the fans and trying to give a semblance of order to a team that seems to be completely lost in its internal struggles of the past few months.

Javier Aguirre resigned in the summer – which was understandable given the weariness of his relationship with supporters and the media, and his outspoken interest in returning to Europe – but the Mexican Football Federation, instead of looking for a successor, decided to appoint two interim coaches for the post-South Africa games against Spain, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela.

The four games were of no real interest and were a burden for the young players based in Europe who missed out on opportunities to fight for starting spots for their clubs with each transatlantic voyage. As a result, Mexico didn't seem to be trying as they drew 1-1 with Spain, lost 2-1 to Ecuador and beat Colombia 1-0.

Two days after the Colombia game, the tabloid *Record* published photos of a late-night party that some national players appeared to have shared with prostitutes. From that moment on, chaos ensued. The players accepted the facts but defended their right to have fun in their spare time. The fans, still angry over the team's elimination in the second round of the World Cup reacted angrily, accusing the players of lacking commitment, and the federation's national-team committee announced an investigation to determine if there was any breach of the internal disciplinary code.

A few weeks later, the head of that committee, Nestor De la Torre, announced that the players who participated in the party would be punished. Arsenal's Carlos Vela and Efrain Juarez of Celtic received six-month bans and 11 others were fined. The decision incensed the players, who sent a letter to the federation demanding the withdrawal of the penalties and the dismissal of De la Torre, accusing him of being "surly and arrogant" with them and asserting that he had knowledge of the party even before it began. The letter was duly leaked to *Record* and published the following day.

Tricolor trio... "Chepo" (centre) with football federation president Justino Compean (right) and secretary general Decio De Maria

> **"Eriksson, Hugo Sanchez and Aguirre all buckled under the pressure of what the Mexican media call 'the most difficult job in world football'"**

The federation announced its full support for De la Torre but, as often happens in these cases, he resigned a few days later so as "not to interfere on the relationship with the players".

And all this while the search for a new national coach, which had begun three months before, continued.

Two candidates

In the end, there were two candidates for the *Tricolor* job. The first was Nestor De la Torre's cousin, Jose Manuel "Chepo" De la Torre, a talented young coach, three-times a Mexican league champion and a former international with 28 caps between 1988 and 1992. The second was Victor Manuel Vucetich, a veteran coach with a spectacular CV in the Mexican league and who was perceived as the front runner in the race because of his expertise in handling complicated dressing rooms.

However, just as everything seemed set for Vucetich to take charge, the story took another unexpected turn and, three days before an official announcement, he quit the race citing personal reasons: his wife had passed away two years ago and he "wanted to spend time with his daughter". So, almost by default, De la Torre was unveiled as the new national boss.

In his first press conference, De la Torre spoke of reconciliation and requested that all the sides "let time heal the wounds". However, the situation is too volatile to leave it as it is and "Chepo" has set himself the urgent task of putting an end to the fighting between the players and the directors, and trying to regain the confidence of fans who see players as mercenaries and directors as thieves.

That could be too much for a coach who has only six years of experience at the top level, but he must prove he's up to the task if he doesn't want to suffer the same fate as the likes of Sven Goran Eriksson, Hugo Sanchez and Aguirre, who all buckled under the pressure of what the Mexican media describe as "the most difficult job in world football". ●

Dark night in Genoa

The abandoned Euro 2012 qualifier against Serbia exposed the inability of the Italian authorities to deal with organised football violence

ITALY

PADDY AGNEW in Rome

ITALIAN FOOTBALL registered yet another black night, in Genoa on October 12, when Italy's Euro 2012 qualifier against Serbia was abandoned after only six minutes following violent disturbances by a small number of the 1,600 Serbia fans present. Scottish referee Craig Thomson was left with little option but to take the players off the field when a smoke bomb was thrown, narrowly missing the Italy goalkeeper Emiliano Viviano.

The day of the game had been marked by a series of minor incidents involving drunken Serbians in Genoa. As the stadium awaited the kick-off, however, the visitors began to create mayhem, throwing a variety of objects on to the pitch and delaying the start.

While this was happening, 15 million TV viewers were treated to the sinister sight of a balaclava-wearing "ultra", later identified as Ivan Bogdanov, who sat astride the stadium's protective fencing, both inciting his fellow Serbs and at the same time cutting his way through the protective netting as the police watched, seemingly powerless.

Following violent post-match clashes with police, 17 people, mainly Serbia fans, were arrested in Genoa, while within the next few days a further 40 were arrested on their return home. One week after the match, eight Serbian fans, including Bogdanov, remained in prison in Italy, awaiting a probable expulsion order.

This was clearly a night when something went badly wrong. A game that had been intended not only to honour the memory of four Italian soldiers killed days earlier in Afghanistan but which was also attended by more than 1,000 schoolchildren was transformed into an ugly spectacle, an expression of the violent face of modern football. The Serbia game now joins the infamous roll-call of top level matches in Italy of the last decade abandoned due to fan violence: Roma v Lazio (Serie A, March 2004), Roma v Dynamo Kyiv (Champions League, September 2004) and Internazionale v Milan (Champions League, April 2005).

> **"All of Europe knows how dangerous Serbian fans can be... despite this they were allowed to enter Italy intending to devastate a city"**
>
> *Italian politician Massimo Donadi*

As UEFA prepare to examine the Genoa debacle at a Control and Disciplinary Board meeting, a number of uncomfortable questions ask themselves. For a start, how come Italian police appear to have been caught largely unprepared for the arrival of a small number of violent, extreme right, ultra-nationalist Serbia fans? Any doubts about the political sympathies of the Serbians were dispelled by banners such as "Kosovo Is Ours" displayed at the stadium.

In the build-up to the game, media commentators had warned of the possible threat of Serbian fan violence, expected to come from many of the same Red Star Belgrade and Partizan Belgrade fans who had caused mayhem during a Gay Pride march in Belgrade three days earlier. Their intention in Genoa, it was speculated, was to cause maximum instability back in Serbia and to offer a very negative image of the country, one that might even jeopardize Serbia's application for membership of the European Union.

Urgent warning

Both the Italian Football Federation and the Italian police subsequently claimed that they had not been fully informed by their Serbian counterparts of the arrival of potentially violent fans. Yet, what do we make of a report in Rome daily *La Repubblica* that claimed Serbian police had in fact sent an urgent communication on the afternoon before the game, warning of the dangers? Was that message less than fully informative or did the Italian authorities underestimate its importance?

Likewise, if the Serbian police were aware of the dangers posed by these fans, why did they not try to stop them travelling to Italy? Or, if this was impossible, why did no Serbian police officers travel with them? As for the night of the match itself, how come Serbian fans managed to smuggle a veritable armoury of weapons including fireworks, smoke flares, metal poles, garden secateurs and knives into the Ferraris stadium?

Then, too, what will UEFA make of the behaviour of the Serbia players? As the players waited on the pitch for the delayed match to begin, captain Dejan Stankovic led his players over to the Serbian fans in an apparent attempt to calm a difficult situation. Not only did

the Serbia players applaud their fans but they also made the three-finger sign of the "Trinity", an easily recognisable gesture of Serbian pride said to represent God, Country and Tsar. What is all the more astonishing is that, hours previously, many of these same fans had attacked the Serbia team bus on its way to the ground.

Furthermore, earlier in the day some Serbia fans had threatened goalkeeper Vladimir Stojkovic, deemed to be a "traitor" because he opted to move to Partizan despite having previously played for their bitter city rivals, Red Star. The hapless Stojkovic, who was also under fire following Serbia's 3-1 home defeat by Estonia on the previous Friday, was apparently so shaken by his ordeal that when he arrived at the ground, he sought refuge in the Italian dressing room and refused to play.

For a time, it seemed that the violent incidents might strain relations between Italy and Serbia. On the one hand, Italian interior minister Roberto Maroni praised the restraint shown by Italian police who had lined up in anti-riot gear in front of the Serbia fans in the stadium but who did not intervene or move onto the terraces. Maroni claimed that, in so doing, the police had avoided a "slaughter".

Yet, there were those, such as Serbia's interior minister Ivica Dacic, who argued that the game had been inadequately handled and that the Italian police should have intervened much more forcefully.

Guerilla warfare

Italian opposition figure, Massimo Donadi of the Italy of Values party, suggested that Italy must bear some responsibility for the night's events, saying: "After a night of urban guerrilla warfare and devastation in Genoa, the minister should resign. All of Europe knows how dangerous the Serbian fans can be, we know they are organised along paramilitary lines and we know too the terrible things many of them did during the Balkan wars.

"Despite this, they were still allowed to enter Italy intending to devastate a city."

Donadi's reference to the Balkan wars is a reminder that many of Serbia's most violent fans were intimately linked to Arkan's Tigers, the paramilitary group led by assassinated Balkan war criminal Arkan, who was believed to be responsible for many ethnic killings.

So what now? Does an exemplary punishment await Serbia? Will Italy, too, have to pay a heavy price for its alleged mishandling of the night? Will the three points be "awarded" to Italy? All eyes are on UEFA. ●

Climate of fear...Serbia's Dragan Mrdja and Italy defenders Gianluca Zambrotta (left) and Leonardo Bonucci narrowly avoid a flare thrown onto the pitch by Serbia fans in Genoa

Red Bull, red faces

Ambitious Salzburg are again having to come to terms with failure to qualify for the Champions League group stage

RED BULL'S motto may be "it gives you wings", but the energy-drink manufacturer's takeover of the former Austria Salzburg club seems to have given the team lead feet.

When billionaire Dietrich Mateschitz and his company bought the club five years ago – renaming it Red Bull Salzburg, changing the club colours and attempting to wipe out its history – the idea was to make the team a force in European football.

Since then, an estimated £175million has been poured into the team, and high-profile coaches such as Giovanni Trapattoni and Lothar Matthaus have been employed. Yet the club's only appearance in the group stage of the Champions League was in the pre-takeover days, back in 1994.

Salzburg have won three Austrian Bundesliga titles since the takeover but the real prize continues to elude them, and this season they fell at the final qualifying hurdle once again. Having been beaten by Valencia in 2006, Shakhtar Donetsk 2007 and Maccabi Haifa in 2009, this time round they went out to Maccabi's fellow Israelis Hapoel Tel Aviv, a team with only a fraction of Salzburg's budget.

This was probably the most painful failure of the lot. Salzburg had signed 11 players during the close season and looked to be in good form as they demolished HB Torshavn of the Faroe Islands 5-1 and Cyprus' AC Omonia 5-2 on aggregate in the previous rounds. But, in front of a half-empty stadium, they went 1-0 down after two minutes at home to Hapoel in the first leg and never recovered.

Things got worse as the team got off to a slow start in the league – where winning the title is considered a mere formality and obligation – and they also lost their first two games in the Europa League. Most embarrassing of all, they were knocked out of the Austrian Cup by third division club Blau-Weiss Linz.

Same old story...(from left to right) Christoph Leitgeb, Nikola Pokrivac and Roman Wallner reflect on defeat by Hapoel Tel Aviv

> "To blend in young players takes time"
>
> *Red Bull coach Huub Stevens*

Player mutiny

That debacle came amid reports of a player mutiny against Dutch coach Huub Stevens, though that appeared to be quelled when the club said he would not be sacked under any circumstances. "We must not forget that we have some young players with a promising future, and to blend in young players takes time," said Stevens, a former coach of Schalke, Hamburg and PSV Eindhoven among others.

But that is exactly Salzburg's biggest problem. With the Champions League qualifiers played in July and August, and the club making their new signings in early July – 64 of them since 2005 – they effectively have to play their most important fixtures of the season with a new, untried team.

This season's buys included Holland midfielder David Mendes da Silva, who missed the first leg against Hapoel through suspension, Argentinian forward Gonzalo Zarate, Uruguayan striker Joaquin Boghossian and Brazilian front man Alan. While Alan spent most of his time against Hapoel falling over looking for penalties, and Boghossian squandered a glut of chances, only Zarate appeared to fit in.

While all this has been going on, a re-formed Austria Salzburg have climbed steadily through the lower leagues.

When Red Bull bought the club, they changed the club colours from the traditional violet-and-white to red-and-white and proclaimed there was no room for history and tradition. They even altered the club's website to give the year of foundation as 2005, rather than 1933, before being ordered to change it back by the Austrian FA.

None of this went down well with the supporters, who began a series of protests that included wearing the old violet-and-white colours. Peace talks failed to heal the rift and 1,500 fans staged a mass walkout at one game in protest.

Having been registered in the seventh tier, the new Austria Salzburg have won promotion four years in a row and now play in the third division, known as the Regionalliga West.

The day when the two could meet is moving ever closer. ●

Close encounters

A tight finish is in prospect in the Brazilian championship

BRAZIL

TIM VICKERY in Rio De Janerio

A DRAMATIC FINALE looks likely as the title race is wide open with eight rounds to go. The tournament is usually hard to predict, for both good reasons and bad, and the current campaign has accentuated both.

On the negative side, World Cup year makes Brazil's domestic calendar even more insane than usual. Out of sync with the rest of the planet, the league runs from May to December. This year there was a pause while attention was focused on events in South Africa, leaving a huge backlog of games. Fifteen rounds in seven weeks left many players injured, others exhausted, with some teams suddenly collapsing, others surging through.

On the positive side, the standard of play appears to be moving in the right direction. The strength of Brazil's currency has permitted stronger line-ups and there is a pleasing trend towards improved midfield play.

For a while the title race looked to be restricted to Corinthians and Fluminense, until both ran into problems. The latter, though boosted by the signing of Deco, suffered a number of injuries to their expensively assembled squad. So too have Corinthians, who have undergone a stormy time and, after seven games without a win, sacked coach Adilson Batista. The charismatic Tite – who was previously with Al Wahda in the UAE – replaces him and, more so than a change of command, hopes are high that Ronaldo can return from injury to carry the team to the title in this, their centenary year.

With Flu second and Corinthians third, Cruzeiro have come from nowhere to snatch the lead. Their run of form is all the more extraordinary since their Mineirao stadium in Belo Horizonte is closed for World Cup work and the club have been staging their matches some 300 miles away in Uberlandia. A key acquisition has been Argentinian playmaker Walter Montillo, who was signed after a good Libertadores Cup campaign with Universidad de Chile.

> "World Cup year makes Brazil's domestic calendar even more insane than usual"

Equally impressive have been Gremio. Inspired by the goals of Jonas, they have climbed from the relegation zone to seventh place and are on the optimistic fringes of the title race.

Still in contention

Remarkably still in contention are Santos, who lie fourth despite playmaker Paulo Henrique Ganso being a long-term injury casualty and striker Andre and midfielder Wesley, both newly capped by Brazil, having been sold to Dynamo Kyiv and Werder Bremen in Europe respectively.

Meanwhile, wonderkid Neymar was suspended for swearing at team-mates and coach Dorival Junior – who wanted an extended suspension and was sacked as a result. Despite all this Santos have retained their identity, continued to play attractive football and, with an easier run-in than their rivals, are entitled to keep dreaming.

In an environment where only three clubs have not changed their coach, it was inevitable that Dorival Junior would soon be back in work and he replaced Vanderley Luxemburgo at Atletico Mineiro, who are beyond all doubt the most surprising failure of the campaign. Five times a title winner, Luxemburgo had been given funds to assemble a squad that were among the favourites. Instead, they have spent the entire campaign in the relegation zone and face an anxious last few weeks.

Luxemburgo himself was handed a chance to resurrect his reputation by replacing the short-lived Silas at Flamengo, but things have not been going well and Luxemburgo took over with the club looking worriedly over its shoulder at the relegation dogfight.

The fact that this has happened to the reigning champions shows just how unpredictable the Brazilian league can be. ●

Under attack...the Fluminense wall tries to stand up to a free-kick from Corinthians' Roberto Carlos

Solid and spectacular

Jose Mourinho has added defensive solidity to Real Madrid – and they are starting to score goals for fun, too

JOSE MOURINHO knew that his Real Madrid side would only have to hold out for 18 minutes for him to break the record and write his name into history at the Santiago Bernabeu. The target was 828 minutes; 828 consecutive minutes without so much as trailing in a match – a club record. The 18th minute of Madrid's Champions League game with Milan was the watershed.

But Madrid did not just hold out; instead, they did something much more impressive. By the time the 828th minute arrived, they were already 2-0 up. Cristiano Ronaldo scored after 13 minutes, within a minute Mesut Ozil had added the second and Mourinho was well on the way to becoming the first coach in Madrid's history to begin his career at the club by going 10 games unbeaten. Dominated, Milan never looked like finding a way back into the game.

Some claimed that the previous nine matches did not really count. After all, Madrid had only played Ajax and Auxerre, Mallorca, Osasuna, Real Sociedad, Espanyol, Levante, Deportivo La Coruna and Malaga – hardly the greatest of footballing powers. In fact, that list includes two of the bottom three and only one side in the top half of La Liga: sixth-placed Espanyol, who had already lost three times and scored just six. But if the previous nine games did not count, this one certainly did. Madrid versus Milan had been billed as a proper game at last, the first real test for Mourinho's Madrid.

They breezed through. And not, Mourinho insisted, because Milan were a poorer side than anyone had envisaged – slow, uninterested, wide open. "If it was easy that was down to us," Mourinho said.

"We played very well. We've managed the game, we controlled it. The physical and mental response of the team has been fantastic. I had 11 great players tonight."

Mourinho was so pleased he did something he had not yet done at Madrid: he gave the players a day off.

He was entitled to – and they were entitled to it. Madrid were top of their Champions League group with three wins out of three; nine points all but guaranteeing their passage into the next round and leaving them favourites to top a group that some considered among the competition's hardest. With Milan in second place on four points, Madrid might even be in a position to rest players over the final two match days.

Never in trouble

Madrid find themselves in a similar position in La Liga. Villarreal's draw with Hercules the night before Mourinho's side met Milan – the seventh time Villarreal have had the chance to go top in their history and the seventh time they have failed to take it – left Madrid as leaders after seven weeks, a point ahead of Barcelona and Valencia.

Madrid had conceded just three goals in seven games, boasting the best defensive record in the league. They had, as Mourinho insisted after the Osasuna game, never really looked in trouble – with the possible exception of their trip to the Estadio Anoeta to face Real Sociedad.

Iker Casillas' heroics had become a thing of the past and the goalkeeper was reinvented as bored bystander. The trouble was, Casillas was not the only one; others were bored too. It was feared that with Mourinho, as was the case with Fabio Capello, you get dull, functional, uninspiring football. It appeared to confirm their prejudices against the Portuguese coach and they didn't much like it.

With the money that Madrid have spent over the last two years (over €300million) and with the wealth of talent available, defensive solidity doesn't get people going. It's just not enough: 1-0 against Osasuna, 2-1

> "Mourinho was on his way to becoming the first coach in Madrid's history to begin his career at the club by going 10 games unbeaten"

against Real Sociedad and 3-0 (thanks to two late goals) in a largely soporific victory over Espanyol barely warranted picking up a pen, still less writing home. It's frankly boring. Mourinho's performances in the press room had people on the edge of their seats, but his team's performances on the pitch were a different matter altogether.

Yes, winning is the most important thing, especially for president Florentino Perez who has gone four consecutive seasons without a trophy and who was correct to say that Madrid's identity is hung above all else on winning. And success in the league or, more importantly, the Champions League, will indeed cure all. But five league games into the season, the critics were adamant: there are many ways of winning – and this, they said, wasn't the Madrid way.

Special...Mourinho's Madrid are unbeaten

Besides, they weren't even winning all the time, and 0-0 draws away at Mallorca and Levante were desperate results. Although Mourinho insisted that his side had missed countless chances, and he was quite right to insist that Madrid never, ever looked like conceding, they were fairly desperate performances too.

Never mind that Mourinho, with some justification, kept telling people his side were in construction, some demanded immediate results. And the results had

Unstoppable...Milan goalkeeper Marco Amelia can only watch as Madrid take the lead in their Champions League clash

In control...Xabi Alonso (left) takes on Real Sociedad's David Zurutuza

not been great. Of their opening five matches, there had been two 0-0s, a 1-0, a 2-1 and a flattering 3-0, in which Mourinho had taken off two creative midfielders to replace them with two defensive ones, drawing whistles from the Bernabeu.

The 1-0 win away at Auxerre had hardly been impressive either, with Angel Di Maria scoring a late winner. Officially their two centre-backs had scored as many league goals as Ronaldo or Gonzalo Higuain, though the awarding of a goal to Pepe for an unintentional deflection of a free-kick looked rather over generous.

There were other fears too. Higuain was wasting chances and the media campaigners who had been waiting for him to fail had another excuse to wade into him. Ronaldo, meanwhile, was shooting wildly and often. He was, they said, getting anxious, edgy, irritable, and it had become a constant debate in the media. During Madrid's match with Ajax he missed the unmissable; then, after their match with Auxerre, he refused to talk to the media, leaving the mixed zone muttering "*puta ansiedad*" (fucking anxiety). He was sick of people going on about it, but by saying so it seemed he might have proved them right.

And then it happened. Madrid slaughtered Deportivo 6-1, then they beat Malaga 4-1. They also defeated Milan, comfortably.

Ten goals in two league games and a first real test passed perfectly. Madrid were unbeaten and they were also the side with the most goals scored and the fewest conceded, a goal difference of plus 13 already.

Hang on a minute, weren't they supposed to be boring?

Challenge is serious

It is true that Barcelona are a solitary point behind. It is also true that while Madrid have faced six teams from the bottom half and the team in sixth, Barcelona have already beaten Atletico Madrid, Athletic Bilbao and Valencia – plus Sevilla in the Spanish Super Cup. But there can be little doubt that Madrid's challenge is serious.

"Bit by bit, I'm seeing what I want to see," says Mourinho.

And what he's seeing is a defence that is admirably solid and a team that is playing better and better. "I never used to like Marcelo at all, I admit it," adds Mourinho. "I thought he was anything but a defender. But now I am in love with him."

> **"Bit by bit, I'm seeing what I want to see"**
>
> *Jose Mourinho*

Ricardo Carvalho is playing with characteristic calm and marshalling the aggression and pace of Pepe, while Sergio Ramos is improving positionally and he is becoming an attacking threat. There is still a question mark about the man accompanying him – Sami Khedira or, occasionally, Lassana Diarra – but Xabi Alonso is taking control, spraying passes all over the pitch, dominating possession. He is the outstanding performer of the first couple of months of the season.

Ozil is inconsistent but inventive – a steal at €15m. Di Maria, about whom Mourinho expressed doubts regarding his ability to produce his best in Spain has been quick, direct and far more effective than anyone expected. And Ronaldo and Higuain, previously accused of not passing the ball to each other, are combining. Not just combining: scoring, too. With five and four league goals respectively, with the ball now flying in, the anxiety has gone. And not just from Ronaldo and Higuain – that goes for everyone at the Bernabeu. ●

Zac's great start

New boss leads the Blue Samurai to victory over Argentina

JAPAN

MIKE PLASTOW in Tokyo

SOFTLY-SPOKEN, with a smile for everyone, former Milan and Juventus boss Alberto Zaccheroni enjoyed a dream start as Takeshi Okada's successor by leading Japan to a 1-0 win over a full-strength Argentina, spearheaded by Carlos Tevez, Lionel Messi and Diego Milito, at Tokyo's National Stadium.

The score was close, and it was only a friendly, but Japan won in style. And they followed that up with a creditable 0-0 draw with South Korea in Seoul in a rip-roaring derby that was played like anything but a friendly.

For his first game in charge at international level, Zaccheroni's line-up against Argentina necessarily resembled this summer's World Cup side, but the new coach has already watched a lot of J.League games and has started to add his own colour.

Some changes were forced, as central defenders Yuji Nakazawa and Tulio Tanaka were both injured, as were Yoshito Okubo and Daisuke Matsui, but the Italian also brought in new blood that included Vegalta Sendai's Kunimitsu Sekiguchi, a wide, attacking player who made his debut replacing for Shinji Okazaki. Yasuyuki Konno and Yuzo Kurihara took over at the heart of defence, while Yasuhito Endo and Makoto Hasebe were used as holding midfielders, sacrificing Yuki Abe's place in rear midfield to gain an extra forward.

It was an attack-oriented formation...and attack Japan did.

Yuto Nagatomo was sensational, coping as well with Messi as he had with Samuel Eto'o in South Africa, yet still surging frequently down the left wing. Equally impressive on the right was Atsuto Uchida, who lost out to Yuichi Komano at the World Cup but seems revived by his move to Schalke.

Keisuke Honda again led the attack, flanked by Shinji Kagawa and match-winner Okazaki, and supported by Takayuki Morimoto.

> **"There are a lot of talented players in Japan but some of them just don't realise how good they are"**
>
> *Alberto Zaccheroni*

Zaccheroni said afterwards: "There are a lot of talented players in Japan but some of them just don't realise how good they are. I want them to grow in confidence with the whole team as we aim for the next World Cup."

Argentina's interim coach Sergio Batista admitted: "The growth has been phenomenal in the past five years and Japan are now ready to take on any team in the world."

The right man

In the end, then, it seems the Japanese FA's technical director, Hiromi Hara, found the right man. But the search was certainly confused and Hara – a former national team striker and J.League manager – had to take charge of the Blue Samurai himself for their first two matches after the World Cup. He did a good job too, naming an innovative squad full of young prospects, and doing what Okada had failed to do in the World Cup by beating Paraguay, 1-0. He followed that up with a more predictable, if close, 2-1 win over Guatemala.

By the time those games were played in September, Zaccheroni was already watching from the stands, but his appointment was a close-run thing. The JFA's initial target was to appoint the new manager by mid-August, and during the World Cup and on into early August the word was that former Porto coach Victor Fernandez was a shoo-in for the job, having already agreed most of the terms with Hara.

Ernesto Valverde and Manuel Pellegrini were also said to have been approached and when those talks broke down Jose Pekerman and Marcelo Bielsa's names were bandied about.

On the morning of August 30, the Japanese press carried conflicting headlines, with *Nikkan Sports* declaring Pekerman had got the job while *Sponichi* went for Zaccheroni. As it turned out, Zaccheroni had slipped into Japan the day before and his appointment was suddenly announced in Tokyo 24 hours later, just five days before the Paraguay friendly.

The 57-year-old's two-year contract is reportedly worth £1.5million a year and he has an option for a two-year extension to the next World Cup. Judging from the first two matches, the national team has not only got back on course very quickly, it is looking even better already. ●

Focus of attention...Zaccheroni arrives in the dugout for the game against Argentina

All change at top

Rennes and Saint-Etienne are the early Ligue 1 leaders

FRANCE

HOWARD JOHNSON in Paris

YOU WOULD HAVE to have a very long memory indeed to recall the last time Rennes sat on top of the pile in the French first division. After all, it was 40 years ago that the club from the capital city of Brittany last held the No1 slot. But having gone nine games without defeat in this season's Ligue 1, coach Frederic Antonetti has somehow managed to transform the perennial bridesmaid of the last few campaigns into a blushing bride.

While nobody – least of all from within the club itself – is making any grand claims towards winning the championship just yet, there is still a quiet sense of satisfaction at a job remarkably well done so far.

Rennes have traditionally been a selling club known for their ability to produce young talent to balance the books. It would have been hard to predict at the start of the current campaign that Antonetti's men would have been in such an exalted league position at the first quarter stage.

Many clubs with more impressive squads than Rennes would have had trouble coping with the loss of two formidable strikers in Jimmy Briand and Asamoah Gyan at the start of the season. Indeed, the club's supporters must have been steeling themselves for another term in which the realistic target would once again be Europa League qualification.

Instead, Antonetti's men are battling it out for top-dog status with Saint-Etienne, who have themselves been hugely resurgent this season after spending the last couple of campaigns scrabbling around at the wrong end of the table trying to fend off relegation.

Les Verts have been living on past glories for years and the ghosts of such idols as Dominique Rocheteau (now back at the club in an advisory capacity), Dominique Bathenay, Osvaldo Piazza and Jean-Michel Larque – brilliant players who took the club all the way to the European Cup Final back in 1976 – still haunt the corridors of Stade Geoffroy-Guichard.

The last time the club won any silverware of note was their league title triumph of 30 years ago. Last season they finished 17th, just one place above the drop zone .

Saint-Etienne's current coach, Christophe Galtier, hardly looks the type to work miracles either. Assistant to Alain Perrin, he appeared to take charge of a club in crisis almost by default when Perrin was given his marching orders in December last year. And without all the necessary coaching diplomas required of a Ligue 1 boss, Galtier has to manage his team while at the same time attending six weeks of courses at the French Football Federation's technical centre at Clairfontaine.

It hardly seems the ideal set-up on which to effect a remarkable transformation, yet Galtier has remodelled his underachieving side and come up with an outfit that lost just one of their opening eight games and enjoyed a symbolic 1-0 win at local rivals Lyon in the 100th derby between the clubs.

> **"What links Rennes and Saint-Etienne is that the whole of both sides is evidently much more than the sum of their parts"**

Wise head

What links Rennes and Saint-Etienne is that the whole of both sides is evidently much more than the sum of their parts. In Antonetti's side, only the much-travelled Stephane Dalmat, who arrived from Sochaux in the close season to add a wise head in the engine room, and fellow midfielder Yann M'vila, who has been capped by France this season, are familiar to a wider audience.

Meanwhile, Saint-Etienne include former Fulham defender and USA skipper Carlos Bocanegra – who arrived, ironically, from Rennes in the summer – alongside 35-year-old midfielder Laurent Batlles, who has previously worn the colours of Toulouse, Bordeaux, Rennes and Marseilles.

This lack of star names appears to have worked in the favour of both clubs, where a strong work ethic and a desire not to get carried away when good things happen lies at the heart of their success so far.

Both clubs also have promising youngsters making a huge contribution.

Saint-Etienne's 23-year-old attacking midfielder Dimitri Payet was rewarded for his barnstorming start to the season and personal haul of seven goals by being given his international debut by Laurent Blanc in France's 2-0 victory over Romania in the European Championship qualifiers. Team-mate Emmanuel Riviere, at just 20, has been leading the line with a maturity well beyond his years.

At Rennes, 21-year-old Cameroon midfielder Georges Mandjeck has been catching the eye. He looks like a player of real quality and has settled in really well since his arrival from Stuttgart in July. Central defender Jean-Armel Kana-Biyik, the son of former Cameroon international Andre, is also 21 and again looks a find.

Whether Rennes and Saint-Etienne can maintain their extraordinary starts to the season remains to be seen as there is clearly a very long way still to go before the prizes are handed out. But there is no doubt that French football is a far more interesting place to hang out now that the traditionally dominant sides of recent seasons are not having things all their own way any more. ●

Green for go...Saint-Etienne mob goalscorer Batlles

Upwardly mobile...Rennes' Kevin Theophile-Catherine (right) tussles with Kafoumba Coulibaly of Nice

Nothing up front

Negative tactics cause concern and cost points in Prague

DAN BRENNAN in Glasgow

CRAIG LEVEIN'S side slipped 10 places in the latest FIFA rankings to 57th spot – their lowest position since May 2006. The slump, which has seen them fall from a high of 13th two years ago, has been accelerated by a lacklustre start to the Euro 2012 qualifiers. With just one win in four attempts – and that a scraped 2-1 home victory against Liechtenstein – Scotland now face an uphill battle to make it to the finals in Ukraine/Poland.

In typically contrary style, they produced their best performance of the qualification cycle so far against the world champions, Spain. Although they lost 3-2 at Hampden, they managed to come back from two goals down and, over 90 minutes, provided Vicente Del Bosque's men with a real test. But while no one could criticise Scotland for failing to take any points from the world's best side, the lack of any return from their previous match, away to the Czech Republic a few days earlier, earned a volley of criticism for manager Levein.

Appointed in December 2009, the former Dundee United boss caused concern in Prague by overlooking stalwart striker Kenny Miller and handing his place in the starting line-up to uncapped QPR forward Jamie Mackie. Consternation then turned to confusion when he deployed Mackie out of position in a team devoid of forwards. His 4-2-4-0 formation – the ultimate exposition of "park-the-bus football" – was all the more puzzling given the Czechs are no longer formidable opponents and their shortcomings had been clearly exposed by a home defeat to Lithuania in September.

The outcome was all too predictable. Scotland managed to hold the Czechs at bay for two thirds of the match, but when the hosts did eventually break through Levein's blunt-edged team had no means of riposte.

The 1-0 defeat in Prague extended the bleakest of away sequences for Scotland. Their last victory on their travels – and their last overseas goal – came in 2008, in Iceland. Seven subsequent away games have seen them concede 16 without reply.

Lone Ranger...QPR's Jamie Mackie on his international debut

> "Identifying a reliable goalscorer remains Levein's thorniest problem"

Mackie is currently joint-top scorer in the English Championship and may prove a good find, but handing him a debut in an unfamiliar role, within an experimental formation, was an ill-conceived gamble.

Identifying a reliable goalscorer remains Levein's thorniest problem: erstwhile Rangers goal-machine Kris Boyd has suffered a goal drought since joining Middlesbrough, Chris Iwelumo has failed to make a real impact at international level, and Steven Naismith, who caught the eye with his goal against Spain, has been redefined as an attacking midfielder.

For now though – and certainly in the absence of the injured James McFadden – all roads lead to Miller, even if his recent international record is poor.

Prior to the Liechtenstein game, Miller had not scored for Scotland in over two years. However, he has been in blistering form for Rangers this season and, moreover, is well versed in the art of ploughing a solitary furrow up front in the 5-4-1 formation that his club manager Walter Smith tends to deploy in Europe.

Quest for new personnel

Levein's quest for new personnel has prompted him to scour the family trees of players south of the border in the hope of unearthing some Scottish ancestry. Every agent in England has received an email requesting details of any player who might be eligible and willing to represent Scotland. Attempts to seduce Newcastle United's in-form forward Andy Carroll appear to have fallen on deaf ears, though Blackpool goalkeeper Matt Gilks and Sunderland right-back Phil Bardsley have been recruited, along with Mackie.

Aside from the return of the never-say-die spirit shown against Spain, Levein can at least draw some positives going forward. Firstly, the form of goalkeeper Allan McGregor. The Rangers custodian, restored to the fold by Levein, is at his razor-sharp best and, when Sunderland's Craig Gordon is fit, Scotland will have two quality keepers vying for a start. Equally encouraging is the renaissance of Blackpool captain Charlie Adam. A peripheral figure for Scotland in the past, he has blossomed in the Premier League this season and sparkled against Spain after coming on as a second-half substitute.

Assuming that Scotland are unlikely to take anything from their final match away to Spain, the play-offs are still achievable if they win their next three matches, which include home games against the Czech Republic and Lithuania.

Failure may mean Levein's tenure coming to a premature end. ●

Gulf of opportunity

Recent terrorist attacks have not deterred one of the Middle East's poorest countries from hosting the Gulf Cup of Nations

YEMEN

JAMES MONTAGUE

THE LAST THING Hamid Shaibani needed was a trip to Beirut for an emergency gathering of the great and the good of Middle Eastern football but, after three people died in a terrorist attack, questions needed to be answered and assurances given.

The Yemen Football Association general secretary was always going to find it tough going to organise the region's biggest football tournament – the Gulf Cup of Nations – in a country at the forefront of the so-called war against Islamic extremism.

After all, Yemen is one of the poorest countries on Earth; a place racked with grinding poverty, instability and tribalism, awash with an estimated 60 million guns and a centre for jihadist elements hell-bent on destroying the government and the Western powers that prop it up.

But preparations had gone surprisingly well. Unlike the chaos that haunted the Commonwealth Games in Delhi, all the stadiums and training pitches had been finished ahead of time. A new five-star hotel, the country's first since unification in 1990, had been built for the players, officials, fans and dignitaries. Tourism would get a huge boost and Yemen could prove to the world that it is a place you can do business in.

And then a bomb went off in the southern port city of Aden at the second-tier club Al Wahda – one of the clubs due to host the likes of Saudi Arabia, Asian champions Iraq and potential World Cup hosts Qatar. Understandably the region's football associations started to get itchy feet and demanded a meeting in Lebanon.

"Don't worry, they have all confirmed their participation, the teams and the technical committees," explained Shaibani when he returned to the Yemen capital Sana'a. "The security is the responsibility of the state, but football is making love and peace between people and we are sure that they will unite behind the tournament. Terrorists are in all the Arab countries. They will not affect it."

> **"Football is making love and peace between people and we are sure the teams will unite behind the tournament"**
>
> *Yemen FA secretary Hamid Shaibani*

Even by Middle Eastern standards, Yemen appeared to be a risky choice for the region's flagship tournament. Since the civil war in 1994, the country's president, Ali Saleh, has struggled to gain control over its restive regions. A Shia rebellion has raged in the north, while secessionist elements are growing in the south – one of the reasons why Aden, rather than Sana'a, was chosen to host the tournament. But the biggest threat has been the growing power of Al Qaeda in the region.

"There is no need to worry about Al Qaeda's threats," assured President Saleh, who announced an extra 30,000 troops would patrol the tournament. "The security forces have cracked down on the terrorists in Abyan province and have continually hunted Al Qaeda members wherever they are."

That was in early October. Since then, as well as the bombing at Al Wahda, two senior British diplomats survived an assassination attempt, while a French oil worker was murdered in a separate attack on the same day. "Holding the tournament in such circumstances begins to look courageous bordering on the foolhardy," ran one recent editorial in *Arab News*.

Crackdown...Yemeni security forces ahead of the Gulf Cup of Nations

And yet the investment that has preceded the Gulf Cup was sorely needed. The government has spent £350million on stadiums and infrastructure, a huge investment for a country whose GNP per capita ranks just 165th in the world.

"We have never had this before, this investment," explains Shaibani. "We have two official stadiums to FIFA standard and new training fields. It's the first time in Yemen that the government has done this."

Political football

Yet it has been impossible to stop the game from becoming a political football for the country's many disaffected factions.

"Yemen – and its friends – spent a lot on infrastructure development," says Raidan al Saqqaf of the *Yemen Times*. "But will it happen? Probably. Withdrawal or cancellation will come at a huge political cost, particularly because [Al Qaeda-affiliated] extremists, [the southern secessionist movement] Hirak, and several USMs [Unidentified Separatist Movements] are betting on the cancellation."

In the middle of all this is Shaibani, who is hoping that a successful Gulf Cup will leave a legacy that helps young people to turn to sport rather than extremism.

"They [terrorists] do not want love and peace, they don't represent the people," he says. "We want our people to know they are equal to other Gulf countries and this will help develop our society and football. If they put their energies into football they won't put their energies into extremism."

Still, the difficulties of hosting a tournament in one of the most dangerous countries in the world pale by comparison to the logistical challenges that will face the next host when the tournament is held in 2013.

Next stop, Basra. ●

Bribes, bans and

Progress with Euro 2012 building work is overshadowed by a domestic match-fixing scandal

UKRAINE

OLEG ZADERNOVSKY in Kiev

AS IF FEARS over whether it will be ready to co-host the European Championship with Poland in 2012 were not enough, Ukraine is now reeling from a major match-fixing case – one that has led to the deduction of points from Metalist Kharkiv and Karpaty Lviv in the current league campaign, fines and suspensions for players and management, and the resignation of the national coach.

The greatest scandal in the history of Ukrainian football broke out when former Karpaty defender Serghei Lascencov, who now plays for PFC Baku of Azerbaijan, confessed to Karpaty president, Petro Dyminsky, that he and other players accepted money to fix a league match against Metalist in April 2008.

"Metalist director Yevhen Krasnikov offered $110,000 to Karpaty players as a bonus for losing the league match against Metalist, urging that in case of our refusal the game will be decided in favour of Metalist by referee decisions," claimed Moldova international defender Lascencov. "I talked to the captain of Karpaty, Mykola Ischenko [now at Shakhtar Donetsk], who agreed to persuade other players to fix this match."

Confession...Lascencov

Captain...Ischenko

> "We gave $10,000 to each of the 11 starting players and $5,000 to the others"
>
> *Former Karpaty player Lascencov*

Metalist thrashed Karpaty 4-0, largely thanks to the help of Lascencov, who scored an own goal and got himself sent off.

"Soon after the game, Krasnikov arrived at our hotel and handed over money to me," said Lascencov. "Ischenko and me invited all the players to one of the hotel rooms and gave $10,000 in cash to each of the 11 starting players and $5,000 to the others registered for this match."

Intriguingly, when Lascencov later went to the Karpaty president's office and confessed, his revelations were secretly videotaped – and then used to blackmail the club's guilty players and avoid paying their salaries.

In June last year, Volodymyr Fedoriv, who had been sold to Chornomorets Odessa, complained to the Football Federation of Ukraine (FFU) that he had not been paid by Karpaty – which led to the club hitting back by releasing the incriminating tape to the FFU.

Banned for life

This August, after a painstaking investigation, the FFU's disciplinary committee awarded Metalist and Karpaty technical defeats in their 2008 match, deducted nine points from their current league tallies and fined them each $25,000, while Metalist director Krasnikov and Karpaty intermediary Lascencov were banned for life. In addition, Karpaty president Dyminskyi was suspended for 12 months, club directors Ihor Dedyshyn and Olexandr Efremov (now the general director of the Ukraine Premier League) were banned for five years and six months respectively, and 18 Karpaty players were fined.

"Karpaty functionaries were punished for the blatant infringement of fair play rules," said Ihor Kochetov, head of the FFU committee for ethics and fair play. "Over the course of a year-and-a-half they used the confession of their player in their own interests by blackmailing guilty players, not paying them and then transferring them to other clubs on unacceptable terms."

Under way...the Euro 2012 stadium in Lviv

Karpaty are lucky not to have been relegated as punishment as this was their second fixed match in four seasons, the FFU having deducted three points from them after a 2-1 win over Spartak Sumy in March 2006.

And there was a further blow for

blackmail

the FFU in the fallout from the whole affair with the resignation of national coach Myron Markevych in protest at the governing body's decision to punish Metalist – the club Markevych coaches in tandem with his national team duties.

"The FFU has completely discredited itself with the recent ruling on Metalist and I have no moral right to work for an organisation that is purposefully destroying our team," Markevych said in a statement posted on the club's website. Markevych, who remains as coach of Metalist, had led the national team since February and was unbeaten in four games in charge.

These events, unfortunately, have overshadowed the visible progress being made on the preparations for Euro 2012.

With the showpiece event less than two years away, unprecedented political instability has coincided with the deepest economic recession the country has known since independence in 1991 to put a big question mark over the government's capability of fulfilling the lavish promises it made in April 2007 to secure co-host rights.

Change for better

However, the situation of great uncertainty and despair changed for the better in April when a new president was elected and a new government formed. The centralisation of power and financial resources meant that practically all aspects of the Euro 2012 preparations were handed over to the deputy prime minister, Borys Kolesnikov, who is still depicted on the website of Shakhtar Donetsk as vice-president of "The Pitmen".

This in turn meant that the powerful FFU president Hryhoriy Surkis' duties were limited to meetings with numerous UEFA inspection delegations.

"The Federation is to be responsible only for testing of the Euro 2012 venues and nothing else," stated Kolesnikov. "The FFU has given shelter to officials from the office of the public prosecutor who had been fired for hard drinking and dereliction of their duties."

After six months of battles with corrupt officials and ensuring the correct distribution of finances to build the infrastructure for 2012, Kolesnikov has been pleased with what has been achieved.

"We fulfilled 100 per cent of UEFA's summer programme requirements," he says. "Moreover, we have caught up lost time in reconstructing the stadium in Kyiv and erecting the new arena in Lviv, as well as building completely new airports in Donetsk and Lviv.

"There is no danger any more of not hosting the Euro 2012 finals in Ukraine."

And that, coming among all the embarrassment of the match-fixing scandal, is news to gladden the hearts of all Ukrainians. ●

Rogge's challenge

The Olympic president is the latest sports administrator to be drawn into the complex politics of the Middle East

PALESTINE

KEIR RADNEDGE in West Bank

JACQUES ROGGE, president of the International Olympic Committee, sat in the VIP tribune of the Faisal Al Husseini International Stadium in Al Ram, just outside Jerusalem, watching a friendly match between the Olympic teams of Palestine and Jordan.

Had the Belgian surgeon left the main stand and walked 100 metres back up the gentle, dusty incline to the main road he would have found himself faced by a long grey wall. He could have looked left and he could have looked right, but he could not have seen where the wall ends.

That is, in itself, a metaphor for the political, territorial and statehood dispute which has set Israelis against Palestinians. Beyond this wall lies East Jerusalem...

Rogge was in Palestine, in the occupied territory of the West Bank, making the first visit to Palestine by an IOC president and following in the footsteps of FIFA leader Sepp Blatter less than two years earlier.

The ostensible reason for Rogge's visit was to lay the foundation stone for the new headquarters of the Palestine National Olympic Committee. The site is just outside the Al Ram stadium, to the south of Ramallah – his hosts' de facto capital, though even that commands political stresses all its own.

Complicated? That is a massive understatement. The torment of the Middle East is possibly the most intractably drawn-out political and human dispute in the world. Certainly it is the one which has attracted the most ongoing attention of the international media since the creation of the state of Israel in 1948.

Sports leaders such as Blatter and Rogge, together with their directors, assistants, aides and acolytes, all take great pride in the unique manner in which sport can cut through barriers of culture, race, religion and politics. That may be true in other theatres of international suspicion and conflict, but either side of the massive wall which divides Israeli from Palestinian it is not a given.

Studying a map is the prerequisite for any visitor. Israel extended its borders after the Six-Day War in 1967. This means that the land which the Palestinians call home is split in two: the West Bank (which is the west bank of the Jordan River) to the east of Israel, and the Gaza Strip down the Mediterranean coast to the south-west.

Factors which include suspicion, fear, insecurity and security – as well as political, historical and religious enmity, and mistrust – provide whatever justification may be set out for the walls, fences and strips of no-man's land, along with the checkpoints and their armed officers.

> **"Peace projects come and go; in the meantime, life goes on and, for many in the West bank and Gaza that means sport – and the main sport is football"**

Fascinating, yet massively depressed

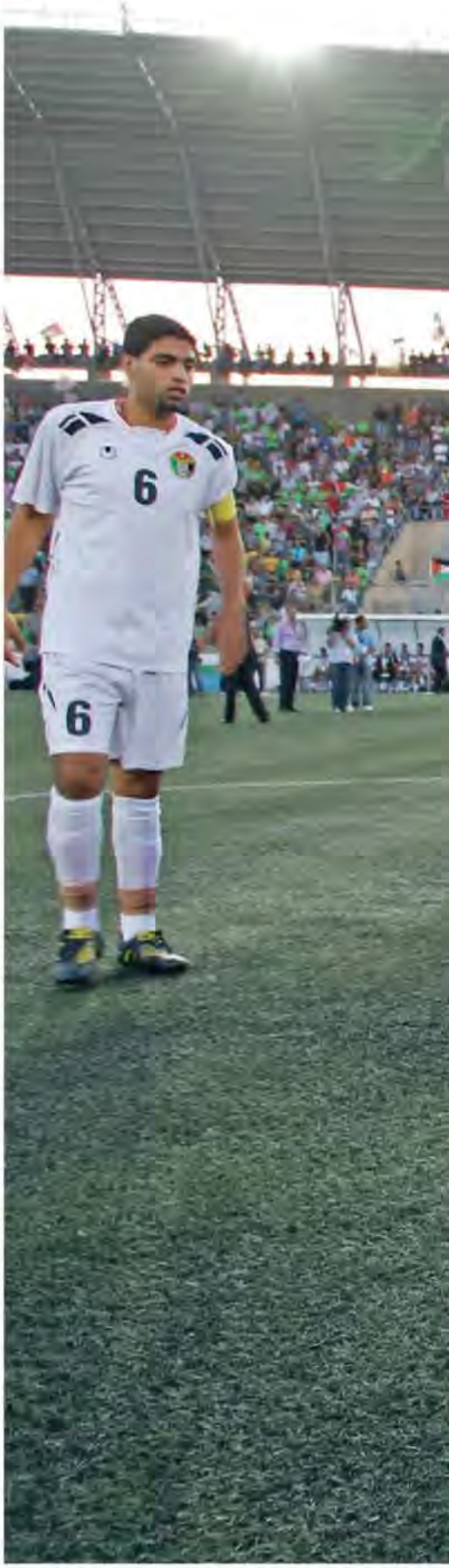
This is a land – taken as a whole – which is at once fascinating, uplifted and massively depressing. But the reality, on the ground, is that Palestinians and Israelis – or however varying factions may prefer to describe themselves and each other – live next door to one another.

Peace projects, plans, proposals and road maps come and go with depressingly predictable failure; in the meantime, life goes on and, for many in the West Bank and Gaza, that means sport – and the main sport is football.

Israel's international sporting prowess and achievements are well-known, while Palestine, comparatively, is just beginning, and one feature of Rogge's week-long Middle East trek – through Jordan, Palestine and on to Israel – was to see, learn and try to engender a little mutual comprehension.

For example, take the meeting between Rogge and Mohammed Shbair, an Iker Casillas-lookalike who is also an international goalkeeper.

The careers and lifestyles of the two men stand at opposite extremes of international football: while Casillas travels the world freely in first-class luxury, feted and admired, the last

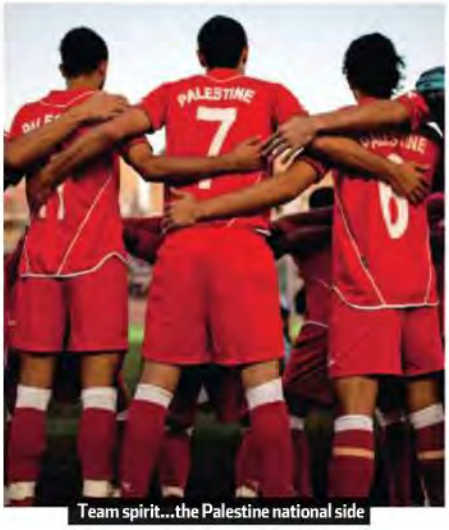


Helping hand...Rogge gets ready to start the friendly between Palestine (in red) and Jordan

Getting their message across...Palestine football fans appeal to IOC president Rogge

time Shbair played for his country he was not allowed back into his homeland for three months. But then Casillas plays for Spain and Shbair for Palestine – at least, he does when he is allowed to by the Israeli authorities.

In Palestine's newly created West Bank Premier League there are 12 clubs, all based in the West Bank, with none in Gaza. The players are part-time and they earn between an above-the-average $1,000 and $3,000 per month.



Team spirit...the Palestine national side

Of those players, 16 are from Gaza and, for them, heading north, up out of Gaza into Israel, then on up out again and into the Occupied Territories, just to play a match should take two hours. But it depends on the security checks – so Shbair, who plays for Shabab Al Khaleel, allows 10 hours, just in case.

"It doesn't make sense," Shbair told me in Ramallah on the eve of the Olympic friendly against Jordan. "I don't see why Israeli players should be free to come and go as they like, but we are treated like outsiders.

"Why do I need a visa to live in my own country? Yes I could go abroad and stay abroad but I don't want to. Why should I? This is my land, this is my home."

It's a home that the 23-year-old student thought, at one stage recently, he might never see again. In June, Shbair and his Palestine team-mates drew 1-1 with Sudan in Khartoum. Heading home from Amman airport, however, he was prevented from entering Israel at the Allenby Bridge border crossing.

> **"Despite everything I want to wear the national jersey; it's important to me as a footballer and as a man"**
>
> *Palestine keeper Mohammed Shbair*

Shbair remained trapped in the Jordanian capital of Amman for three months, connected to family and friends only by phone while he waited for court action and the sports' authorities pleading to achieve a change of heart.

"Despite everything I still want to wear the national jersey; it's important for me as a footballer and as a man," insists Shbair. "But every time I come to a checkpoint now it scares me... and all I want to do is play football."

The "strong man" of Palestinian sport is Jibril Rajoub, a 57-year-old who is not only president of the Palestine Olympic Committee, which has been sending a small team of competitors to the summer Games

since 1996, but also president of the Palestine Football Association.

Rajoub, who spent 17 years in Israeli prisons for his militant activities, now claims: "The athlete is everything. I am a person of the football and Olympic committees trying to separate politics from sport.

"I want to bring up the new generation in Palestine with those ethics and values, and without hatred and enmity."

However his words turn fiercely partisan and political when he complains about Palestinian athletes' travel problems and about the sports equipment – sent by FIFA and UEFA among others – which has been blocked in Israeli ports and airports.

Delicate negotiations

Rogge has first-hand knowledge of such complexities: it had taken delicate negotiations, right up to the very last hours, before the Israelis would countenance various Arab members of the Belgian's 15-strong IOC party flying in with him to the West Bank from the Jordanian capital of Amman.

Rajoub argues: "The IOC should intervene, should say something...then I hope that others, in particular the Israelis, will understand this part of the IOC mission here and the suffering of the Palestinian athletes."

For some, of course, the issue of whether Palestine should even believe in its right to be an independent state is a no-go area. But, as far as FIFA and the IOC are concerned, recognition is an administrative, historical fact. For sport, this is no longer an issue.

Hence Rogge, after moving on to Tel Aviv, raised with Israeli political and sports leaders the issues of freedom of travel and sports equipment blockades.

Subsequently, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu told Rogge in a telephone conversation that he would work to ease travel constraints. That pledge was echoed in direct discussions with Rogge by the Israeli president Shimon Peres who, according to the IOC, offered his "constructive cooperation to find solutions".

Olympic committee leaders from Palestine and Israel have been invited by Rogge to attend a summit meeting at IOC HQ in Lausanne before the end of the year to discuss mutual sporting acceptance.

In the meantime, the best footballers in Gaza will continue to allow up to 10 hours to make a two-hour journey... ●

Selection headaches

MOUSSA BEZAZ is a 52-year-old Algerian who moved to France with his family at the age of four, played at right-back and in midfield for Sochaux and Rennes, and is now coach of Palestine's national team.

He spends more time – and running up a fearsome phone bill – in trying to sort out travel permits for his players than in directing them out on the training pitch.

Palestine have been admitted to play at November's Asian Games in Guangzhou, China, and club teams can compete, from next year, in the Asian club competitions. At least that is the theory – getting players in and out of the West Bank and Gaza is something else.

"The players here are keen and we also use Palestinian players from Poland, Chile, Egypt, France and Sweden and some other countries," says Bezaz. "The trouble is, I always have to pick a squad of around 30 players for a game because I never know how many will actually be able to turn up and play.

"We give the authorities notification three weeks in advance of the travel permits we need, but most of the time the guys don't known if they will get them until the day before they have to travel. Sometimes they get the permit the day after the game...what use is that?"

Bezaz is delighted with local passion for football but regrets the "problem of infrastructure" and the lack of "stadia or natural grass pitches".

Difficult job...national coach Bezaz

He goes on to add: "Experience for the players remains a big problem. We went to play in Sudan in June and in Mauritania in August. But games against Bahrain and Egypt had to be cancelled. These matches are vital because the players need international opportunities.

"That's the only way we can make progress."

In the international wilderness

AN original Palestinian Football Federation was founded in 1928 and later became the Israeli FA. A separate Palestinian Football Association was then launched in 1962 but was not accepted into FIFA until 1998, after the creation of the Palestinian National Authority.

The national team's highest spot in the FIFA World Rankings was 115 in April 2006, but they played no home games until October 26, 2008, which was when FIFA president Sepp Blatter saw a 1-1 draw with Jordan in the renovated Faisal Al Husseini International Stadium.

Friendly...Palestine (in white) greet their opponents from Jordan in October 2008

Colonial talent

The second Coupe de l'Outre-Mer in Paris attracted the attention of a host of Ligue 1 scouts – not to mention a current France international

Vested interest...Malouda was born in French Guiana

FRENCH GUIANA

STEVE MENARY

WHEN CHELSEA'S Florent Malouda was rested for the League Cup game against Newcastle United in September, the France winger skipped the game at Stamford Bridge to watch a more low-key fixture in the Parisian suburb of Saint-Gratien.

As Chelsea were crashing out of the cup, Malouda was provoking great excitement as he arrived in the Stade Michel Hidalgo to watch French Guiana, the French department where he grew up, take on Mayotte.

The Coupe de l'Outre-Mer was the idea of Christian Karembeu, who was born in New Caledonia but won the World Cup with France in 1998. It was first staged in 2008 and this year's edition was again spread across various lower-league grounds in Paris.

"I grew up in French Guiana and this is very important for people like us from the West Indies or the Caribbean," said Malouda. "That's why I came to show my support. It's more difficult now [for players from French Guiana], now everyone wants to be a pro player. I don't think that the players here all want to be pros. They want to play in a competition but this is also about making contacts."

The tournament is staged by the amateur wing of the French Football Federation with teams drawn from the leagues of the eight departments or territories taking part.

Sensational goals

Malouda saw Guiana come from behind to rescue a 2-2 draw with Mayotte with two sensational late goals from Anthony Tuinfort. In a novel approach, all draws went straight to penalties and Mayotte earned three points, with Guiana settling for two.

Holders Reunion outclassed Saint Pierre & Miquelon, a tiny French territory off the east coast of Canada and the only side that did not take part in 2008. Last-ditch saves from Gino Bonnieul and atrocious finishing by Reunion striker Jean Michel Fontaine kept the score down to 2-0 at half-time, but Reunion ran riot after the break and eventually won 11-0.

Despite a capital-wide transport strike, the Parc des Sports at Bry-Sur-Marne was full of French West Indian diaspora for the first two games in the other group. Martinique recovered from an early Tahiti goal to win 4-1 with a double from Patrick Percin, the former Auxerre midfielder now back home with CS Belimois.

In the other game, Guadeloupe – coached by former *Les Bleus* defender Jocelyn Angloma – dropped a vital point in a 1-1 draw with New Caledonia, who won 6-5 on penalties.

The group winners went straight into the Final, where Martinique gained revenge for their defeat by Reunion in the inaugural competition by winning 5-3 on penalties after a hard-fought goalless draw at the Stade Duvauchelle in Creteil.

While Percin's days in Ligue 1 have been and gone, there was still enough on show to interest the watching scouts, with Reunion's Joseph Bader, Malouda's compatriot Tuinfort and a host of young Martinique players suggesting that there is plenty more colonial talent out there. ●

Island rivalry...eventual champions Martinique (in white) on their way to a 4-1 win over Tahiti in the Overseas Cup

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ANY PLAYER...ANY MANAGER...ANY TEAM

IN A WORLD CUP YEAR it's natural that the leading contenders for the World Player award would have been among the stars of the summer. Andres Iniesta, scorer of Spain's goal in the Final against Holland and a key figure for his club Barcelona, is a leading candidate, as is his fellow midfielder Xavi. Striker David Villa and defender Carles Puyol will also attract votes. And while a goalkeeper has yet to win the award since its inception in 1982, Spain's captain Iker Casillas must surely be considered a candidate.

Uruguay's Diego Forlan was voted player of the tournament in South Africa after playing a crucial role in his country's run to the semi-finals. This, combined with his general sportsmanship and his contribution to Atletico Madrid's Europa League success, makes him a strong contender.

Wesley Sneijder was Holland's key figure in their passage to the World Cup Final. Their much-criticised performance against Spain may count against him, but his starring role in Internazionale's Champions League triumph should not be forgotten.

Diego Milito, two-goal hero of Inter's Final win over Bayern Munich and a prolific scorer in their Italian league success, is another strong candidate. Despite Argentina's disappointing defeat by Germany in the World Cup quarter-finals, last year's winner Lionel Messi will also attract votes.

In the Team category, world champions Spain are the obvious favourites – not just for their success but also for the manner in which it was achieved. Other World Cup teams who may also receive votes include semi-finalists Germany and Uruguay, as well as Africa's most successful side, Ghana, who also finished runners-up to Egypt in the 2010 African Nations Cup.

At club level, European champions Inter set the benchmark for success, even if pragmatism triumphed over style. Bayern Munich, in contrast, gained plaudits for their manner of play en route to a German league and cup double. Dutch champions Twente and South American club champions Internacional will also have their supporters.

Spain's Vicente Del Bosque is an obvious contender to win the World Manager award, along with Inter's Jose Mourinho, now of Real Madrid. In addition, Uruguay's Oscar Tabarez, Germany coach Joachim Low and Milovan Rajevac of Ghana all earned praise for their World Cup performances.

Club coaches Carlo Ancelotti (Chelsea), Louis Van Gaal (Bayern), Pep Guardiola (Barcelona) and Steve McClaren (Twente) also deserve recognition.

Candidates for the Young Player award include Mesut Ozil and Thomas Muller of Germany, Brazilian revelation Neymar and Mexico striker Javier Hernandez.

Players, coaches, teams...the decision, as ever, is yours. Whoever you think deserves to win, please make sure that you register your vote. You can do so by filling in the coupon below (or a photocopy) and posting it to:

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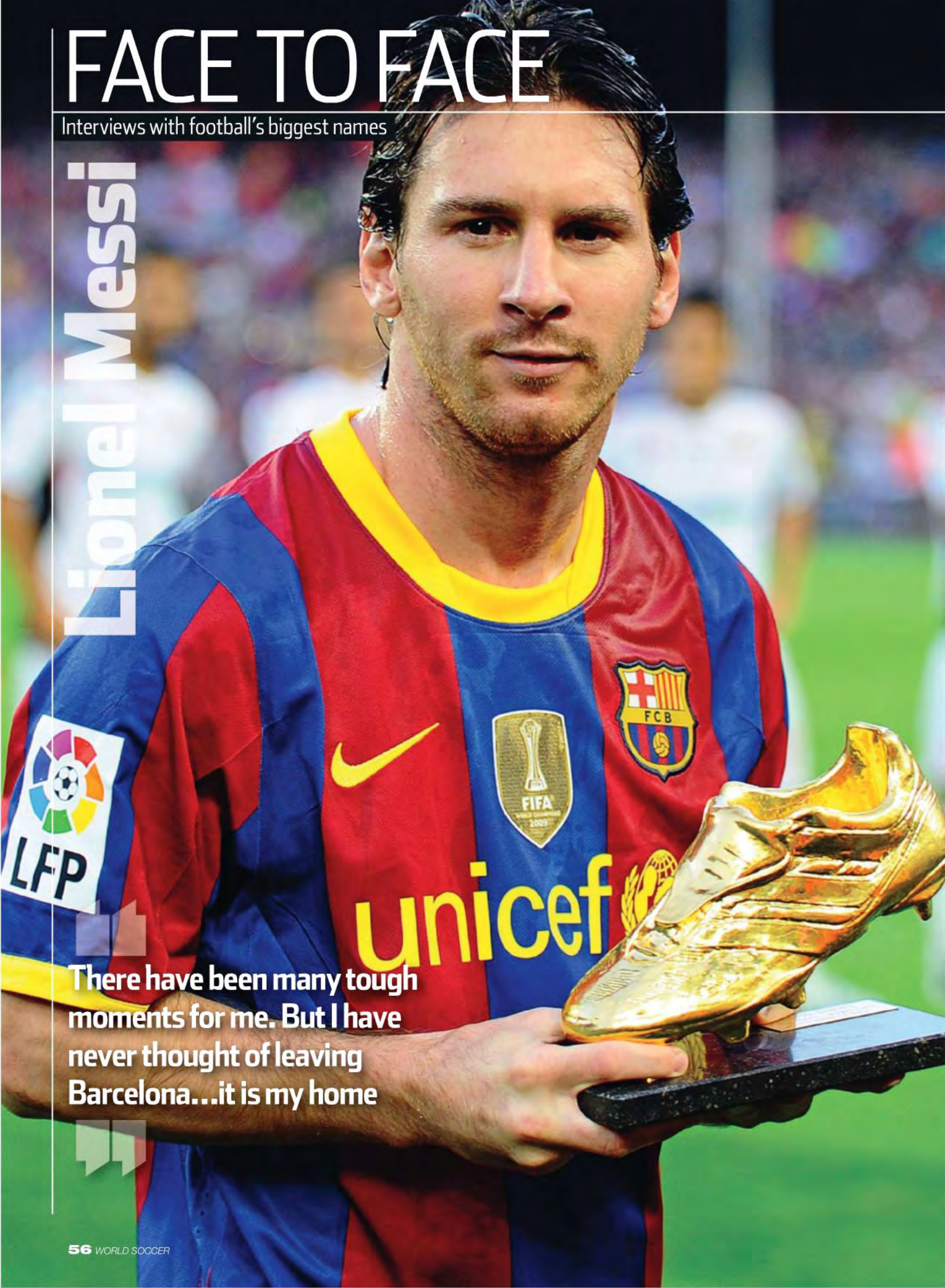
FACE TO FACE

Interviews with football's biggest names

Lionel Messi



There have been many tough moments for me. But I have never thought of leaving Barcelona…it is my home

Lionel Messi

In October, the Barcelona and Argentina attacker received the ESM Golden Shoe award as Europe's top goalscorer last season

Golden touch

CONGRATULATIONS ON winning the Golden Shoe. You got 34 league goals. Can you better that record his season?
I hope so! But, honestly, I don't know. It's hard. I'd love to be able to score as many goals again and it would be lovely to win this award for a second time, but we'll have to see. It's going to be a long, hard season.

Real Madrid have strengthened again. Does that make it longer and harder still?
I think the level of competition is going to be the same as it was last year. We know that it's going to be hard. We know that Real Madrid are a very strong team and we know that in the Champions League every side is difficult to defeat. But, much as everyone is talking about us and Real Madrid, we can't focus on that. We have to look at our own game, try to improve with every match and not worry about everyone else.

You have won everything there is to win with Barcelona and yet you're still only 23. What do you hope for the future and what keeps you motivated?
The desire to win things isn't diminished by having won them before. I try to keep on winning at an individual and team level. I really want to win things for Argentina too. So, I have already won things; OK, so the aim is to do it again.

You have played on the right side, as a no9 and in a deeper central role. Where do you feel happiest?
I don't know. I'll play wherever the coach puts me. It depends on what kind of game it is, how the other side is set up. Sometimes you prefer to be deeper, sometimes higher up. I am growing every year, getting better – but that is not solely dependent on which position I play in. Pep Guardiola always tries to find the best position for me. He has told me that it is his intention always for me to participate a lot in our play, to be involved. He also wants me to be as close to the opposition goal as possible and that makes it easier to score.

How important was Frank Rijkaard to your success? And what explanation is there for the fact that he struggled at Galatasaray?
Very. I feel lucky to have coincided with him as coach of Barcelona. He trusted in me, he gave me a chance. As a person and a coach he was wonderful. All he wanted was the best for me and I am very grateful to him for that. I owe him a lot. Things did not go too well for him at Galatasaray in Turkey, but Frank is a coach who knows lots about football; at the very start at Barcelona things were hard too. Yet with time and with work, he turned it round.

But you wouldn't deny that things improved at Barcelona with the arrival of Pep Guardiola?
Of course not. Things did change with Guardiola. He arrived after a year in which we hadn't been able to win anything. Things were a little flat, we'd ground to a halt a bit. There was a sadness about the dressing room. He brought motivation; he brought a renewal of everything. That was very good for us.

There is one shadow still – Argentina. How do you explain the difference between your club form and the difficulties you have encountered with your country?
The difference is that at Barcelona we're together all year and I have spent years playing with the same team-mates. The national team is harder; the coach has to try to impose a style, a team, when he doesn't have much time. There's just no time to work, but hopefully [Sergio] Batista can find a way to get that right. Here, we have the time to do the things that the national team simply doesn't have time to do.

Are you happy with his appointment? Would you rather Diego Maradona had continued?
Everyone knows that Diego wants to come back, but it's not up to the players to decide if we want Diego or Batista. That's an issue for the AFA, for [president Julio] Grondona. I have been happy with Diego, with Batista ...I'm not one to be taking that kind of decision. Of course I would love to play as well for Argentina as for Barcelona.

But Barcelona is special?
Barcelona's my home. It's beautiful to be here, I have always had everything I could wish for – from the youth teams to now, I have always felt the support of the club and I have never wanted for anything.

Yet you arrived very young, aged just 13. That must have been hard. Was there ever a moment when you thought you might not make it or that you would have to leave Barcelona?
No, to be honest, no. There have been lots of very hard moments for me, bad times. When you have those times it is natural to miss home. But I never thought of leaving Barcelona. I knew it was me who had decided to come here and I fought for my dream. I was also lucky to make my debut very young and as soon as I began to play in the first team everything changed.

Interview by Sid Lowe/ESM

Golden boy...Messi with his trophy

FACE TO FACE

Interviews with football's biggest names

Danny Murphy

I don't mind referees giving a wrong decision as long as they are honest and say they got it wrong

Danny Murphy

The Fulham captain talks frankly about referees, diving and violent tackles

Honest pro

HOW HAS THE GAME changed since you started playing?
Now there's so much more pressure to succeed. Every game is built up, talked about within the club, by the media, on TV. Every win, you're a great team; every defeat, you're struggling. The pressure is immense. That's due to the financial predicament that football's in. Every manager, every team needs to be succeeding. Therefore the main difference from when I started playing was that I didn't feel the pressure and intensity to win. It was more enjoyable.

What's your motivation to keep playing?
Well, it's changed. I grew up as a Liverpool fan, so my only ambition was to play for Liverpool. When I achieved that, it was then to try to play for England and to win trophies for my club. But the passion I have for playing football was there from three, four, five years old and it's still there today. There's a lot of players who, if it was just about money, could call it a day. It's playing football that gets us out there every day. In many ways, there's no better time to be involved: the help you get now, the support, the nutritional advice, the fitness advice, the masseurs, every bit of equipment you need is there to help you succeed. That wasn't there 10, 15 years ago when we started.

Are you obscenely paid?
Football's a sport that's in demand. If you're in a situation where your boss offers you a contract with more money, you look after yourself and your family around you. The perception of what other people think is somewhat irrelevant. If you have a talent and somebody is prepared to pay for that talent, why should we make excuses for that?

Are referees better or worse than when you started out?
They are better. Most are very communicative and prepared to talk about things.

What did they used to be like?
A bit more schoolteacher-ish. You always had one or two characters who were prepared to have a bit of banter, but now it's much more important – with all the media attention – that they do converse with the players and get decisions right and talk through the ones they get wrong. I don't think they've been helped particularly well over recent years. Goal-line technology is something that has been talked about. For the life of me I see no reason why that should not have happened. I still think there's an argument to be had for retrospective punishment. The referees can't always get it right. The game is very fast now, it's very difficult. Why not have a board of ex-professionals who know when a tackle's a bad tackle, who know when a decision is right or wrong? With the money in the game, it's not going to be much of a cost issue. Then people who deserve to be punished can get punished. I'm not just talking about tackles that break people's legs; I'm talking about cheating, simulating. Why not address them all on a Monday or a Tuesday and they can be nipped in the bud, instead of putting all the pressure on referees.

Some people say diving is part of the game. Do you try to bend the rules?
Well, manipulation is a possible one. As captain, you sometimes befriend a referee. You continually niggle him, try to get him onside, depending on what relationship you've got with that referee over a period of time. I've been in a position where referees have acknowledged to me before games that they have made mistakes in previous games, therefore you feel that you might get one in that game. It's human nature, you can't have referees who are robots. Unfortunately, going back to the point about the success that teams, managers, chairmen and fans now demand, players are encouraged to make sure they get the result.

Encouraged by managers, chairmen...
Yeah, generally. I wouldn't say they say "go on lads, dive and get a penalty" but whatever's needed to get a result. For the manager to keep his job, for the fans to be happy. That's what the sport is now.

But players are the first to complain when someone dives and a penalty is given against you...
My only argument is that I don't mind referees giving a wrong decision as long as they are honest and say they got it wrong.

Are you in favour of a winter break?
I wasn't originally because I think the Christmas and new year period in England is something special and I've always been a fan of that. You could actually have a break in January, maybe, and that would benefit the international team. In recent years we've struggled in big tournaments and maybe that's a reason why. If you look at the top players, at the big clubs, playing Champions League, Premiership, internationals, sometimes they're getting two or three weeks rest in a year, which is unacceptable. It seems sensible [to have a break]. Every other European country does it.

A former Liverpool team-mate of yours, Jamie Carragher, has retired from the national team, as has Paul Scholes. Were they right to do that?
Each person's individual circumstances are relevant. I actually believe they were probably both right to do that. I know a bit more about Jamie's situation. He felt he had played as well as he could possibly play for his club and still was not getting a place for England after being in the squad regularly for many years, travelling the world and watching football rather than playing it. In that respect, I think he made the right decision. Obviously the more high-profile players, if they do that, are going to be under the microscope. People question their pride, their passion. Personally, the pressure to play for England is greater than it's ever been. I'm not sure why we have such huge expectancy when we have not actually won a tournament since 1966.

It's hard for young English players to break through these days. Do you resent that?
I was fortunate because I moved from Crewe to Liverpool as a 19-year-old. If I was in the same predicament now I would probably not get that opportunity, so I suppose you could say there's some resentment there. It's here and now. Managers haven't got time to be looking two years ahead and saying: "I can give this youngster a few games, give him a chance, and if he fails or has a bad few games it doesn't matter." Because of the Bosman situation, I don't see too much light at the end of the tunnel. Of course, you'll always get people saying if you're good enough, you'll get there anyway. I disagree with that. If you're a superstar and if you're a world-class player, yes. But how do you gain experience, knowledge and wisdom to

Leaders...(left to right) Brighton manager Gus Poyet, ex-FA man David Davies, Danny Murphy and Everton's Phil Neville

become a good footballer? It doesn't happen overnight. You need to play with better players, good players, more experienced players, to gain the knowledge and experience, and if you're not given the opportunity, then you fall away to the Championship or League One.

Is it reasonable to expect players these days to be role models?
You don't see a lot of the good that goes on. Football, in general, is a working-class sport; from a mostly deprived upbringing, you're given fame and fortune overnight. The guidance you get is minimal. It's got better over the years, but I had nobody other than the other players to look to for advice or wisdom. They say in life you learn from your mistakes, you have to make the mistake to learn, you can't be correct all the time. Teenagers and guys in their early twenties are getting contracts of a million-pounds-plus, a nice car, nice house, and you expect them to behave like mature men. It's not going to happen and it wouldn't happen anywhere in the world. It's a balance. We are role models, we have to behave, but we should be allowed to make mistakes. It gets beyond the line of decency when papers, and I know they do it, go out looking to set up players and try their hardest to get stories on players.

Would you like to be a coach?
I'd like to be, but it's easier said than done. You obviously have to work hard to get the qualifications, then you have to get the opportunity – which are few and far between these days. There are different types of footballer. Some players come in on a Monday morning and want to discuss every goal they've seen, every match they've seen over the weekend. Others switch off and don't watch it. I've always been a lover of the game. I watch every game that's on. For me, coaching would be about the challenge. It would be nice to be able to put into practice some of my thoughts. Sometimes, even with your own manager, you question what they do. I've always been that way.

Why do you want to do something where so often there seems to be no logic? Managers are thrown out of a job for the strangest reasons...
It's the love, it's the passion, it's wanting to be involved and wanting to contribute still. It's more of a mental thing than a physical thing. When you're playing it's a physical thing, but when you can't do that any more the next best thing is mental. The pressure on managers these days is great, but a lot of managers don't have the financial worries that managers in the past had. The pressure to succeed used to be there because they had to pay the mortgage. That's gone. The challenge is purely a football one.

You're a captain. Do you have a responsibility that is more than flipping a coin at the beginning of the game?
It's a fine balance between verbally helping the players around you and making sure your own performance is spot on. For me, David Beckham was a great example of someone who led by his performance, not with his words of wisdom. There is a responsibility to look after new players, but you still need to do the Roy Keane stuff. If someone's not at it, you've got to let them know. It is a role that you do grow into as you get older. There are exceptions – Tony Adams, John Terry – but wisdom comes with experience.

You talked about the pressure to succeed. Is that contributing to the violent tackles that Arsene Wenger has complained about? Is tackling these days tougher?
There's two points. The first one on the actual technique of tackling. People talk about leaving the ground, two feet, etc. The pace in which some players are going into tackles is ridiculous; there's no brains involved from the players who are doing that. I don't believe players go out to deliberately break somebody's leg, but there's got to be some logic and intelligence involved. If you go at someone at a certain pace and you don't get it right, you're going to hurt them. So the players need to be culpable for that. I don't know about punishment, but the players need to be a bit more intelligent, especially the ones who are doing it repeatedly. The other thing that I think people miss...I know players are grown men with their own attitudes, but your manager dictates what your players do, how you behave. If you have a manager who is in control of the team and doesn't allow, generally, these type of things to go on, then you're going to have a more disciplined team. Under Roy Hodgson at Fulham, we were always top of the fair-play award because he wouldn't accept talking back to the referee, he wouldn't accept stupid tackles. Going back to Dario Gradi at Crewe, he could not understand why, for the life of him, and he's totally a football man, you would go into a tackle other than to save a goal or score a goal. Why would you risk injuring yourself or someone else, just so supporters might clap you and think you're brave? I'm not saying tackling is a bad thing, but we want to watch the best players on the football pitch. You get managers who are sending their teams out to stop the other team playing, which is happening more and more. The Stokes, the Blackburns, Wolves. They can say it's effective, we've got to win games, but the fact is the managers are sending out their players so pumped up that, inevitably, there is going to be problems. We can look at players and blame players but every ship has a captain, a manager in charge. It's no coincidence that when you have a manager like Roy Hodgson in charge, that you don't get the discipline problems.

A point to make...Fulham captain Murphy

This is an edited version of a conversation between Danny Murphy and David Davies at the Leaders in Football conference

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Strikerless extremes: *how 4-6-0 can be positive or negative*

Zero tolerance

Jonathan Wilson begins a new column with a look at the 4-6-0 formation employed by Scotland against the Czech Republic

No way through...Scotland (in yellow) tried to stifle the Czech Republic in Prague by playing six players in midfield and no one up front when the opposition were in possession

WHEN FORMER Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira, speaking in 2003 at the coaching conference he runs in Rio de Janeiro, suggested the future of football might be 4-6-0, it's fair to assume he wasn't thinking of using it in the way the Scotland manager Craig Levein deployed it in the Euro 2012 qualifier away to the Czech Republic.

At the very highest level – where players are so technically gifted, so motivated and so fit that football becomes almost theoretical – tactics are about the manipulation of space. And when are forwards at their most dangerous? When they're arriving from deep, unorthodox positions so that defenders have to decide whether to follow them and break their usual structure, or leave them and risk giving them space.

That has always been true, never more so than at Wembley in 1953 when the England centre-half Harry Johnston found himself bewildered by the way Nandor Hidegkuti of Hungary dropped deep and refused to stand where he could easily be marked. Hidegkuti scored a hat-trick and England lost 6-3.

That was one player, though; imagine the impact of six doing it at once, with a solid back-four behind them to provide a platform. Obviously the six would have to be special players – "six Decos" as the UEFA technical director Andy Roxburgh put it – fit, combative, technically gifted players with the tactical intelligence not to need a fixed point to work from.

As Arrigo Sacchi demanded of his Milan team, they should not think of themselves as having a position but should move taking into account four factors: where the ball is, where the space is, where their team-mates are and where their opponents are.

There have been signs that, slowly, football has been moving towards Parreira's vision, aided by the ongoing liberalisation of the offside law, which has made it harder for teams to press with a high defensive line, thus stretching the playing area and leading to the growing popularity of four-band systems. Rather than relying on a back four to provide the base, teams can add one or two holding midfielders, and operate with a highly fluid front five or four.

> "At the very highest level, tactics are about the manipulation of space"

The archetypal *trequartista*

In 2006-07, largely because of injuries, Luciano Spalletti's Roma played a 4-1-4-1 system with Francesco Totti, the archetypal *trequartista*, as a lone striker. David Pizarro operated as the holding player, with Rodrigo Taddei, Simone Perrotta, Daniele De Rossi and Mancini in front of him. Totti instinctively dropped deep, creating space into which one or more of the attacking midfielders advanced.

As the distinction between centre-forward and attacking midfielder dissolved, Roma's formation became, if not a 4-6-0, then certainly a 4-1-5-0.

The experiment was taken on in 2007-08 by Manchester United, who had Wayne Rooney and Carlos Tevez as their nominal centre-forwards, both dropping deep and pulling wide, creating a vacuum that Cristiano Ronaldo, in particular, could exploit. With Ryan Giggs or Nani on the left and two of Owen Hargreaves, Michael Carrick, Anderson and Paul Scholes holding, the formation was effectively a 4-2-4-0.

It's a mode of play that requires much work to develop a mutual understanding – as was shown by United's lack of goals in the early games that season, and by the desperate use of the defender John O'Shea as a makeshift target man as they struggled to find fluency in drawing 0-0 against Reading on the opening day – but when it does click it can produce exhilarating football.

Ronaldo scored 42 goals in all competitions that season as United won the Champions League. The following season their successors as European champions, Barcelona, also had a prolific right-sided forward in Leo Messi, who rattled in 47 goals in

Front two...the desire of Rooney (left) and Tevez (right) to roam allowed Ronaldo to move into a more advanced role and score 42 goals in Manchester United's highly successful 2007-08 season

another system so fluent it bordered on strikerlessness, with Yaya Toure or Sergio Busquets holding, and Andres Iniesta and Xavi breaking forward to join a front line of Thierry Henry, Samuel Eto'o and Messi.

There was none of that fluidity in Prague in October, though. Levein's 4-6-0 was set up purely to defend, with Darren Fletcher and Gary Caldwell sitting in front of the back four, and Jamie Mackie, Graham Dorrans, James Morrison and Steven Naismith lined up across midfield. Whether playing for a draw against a Czech Republic side that is nowhere near as good as it used to be is debatable, but Levein's justification that his side only lost to a set-play becomes less convincing when the statistic that the Czechs had 22 chances, eight of them on target, is taken into account.

This idea of playing for a draw is a growing trend. Internazionale's performance in losing only 1-0 at Camp Nou in last season's Champions League semi-final second-leg, thus protecting a 3-1 first-leg advantage, may come to be seen as one of the game's tactical turning points. Jose Mourinho's claim that his side deliberately lost possession to keep their shape may have been a mix of post-hoc rationalisation and his usual braggadocio, but that doesn't alter the fact that they held out against a great attacking side despite ceding 84 per cent of possession.

Making room...Totti's role at Roma is that of the lone striker but he likes to drop deep, which in turn creates space for any one of Roma's four attacking midfielders

Affordable luxury

The World Cup saw five at the back used as a negative tactic – used, for instance, by North Korea in all three games, and by Uruguay against France. Fielding three centre-backs against a single-striker means that a side is out numbered elsewhere on the pitch, but if your intention is merely to defend, two spare men at the back is an affordable luxury.

Rangers similarly used a 5-4-1 in holding Manchester United to a draw in the Champions League this season, though in contrast to Levein's Scotland they at least had Kenny Miller as a striking outlet to relieve the pressure occasionally.

The failure of Levein's experiment does not mean 4-6-0 is doomed. Formations are neutral; it is their application that gives them a positive or negative slant. ●

SIX OF THE BEST LIBERTADORES

Omar BRAVO

GUADALAJARA (MEX)

OVERLOOKED for the World Cup in favour of Mexico's younger generation of strikers, Bravo used the Libertadores to show that he remains a goal poacher of pedigree. In eight matches he scored five times – and against all four of Guadalajara's opponents.

A slightly built, perky attacker, he seems to come to life in the penalty area, combining speed of thought and movement to get in front of his marker. His acceleration and positional sense enable him to carry a surprising aerial threat, with two of his goals – and another two assists – coming from headers. Bravo even had the last word in the Final, reacting with typical sharpness to slide home Adolfo Bautista's free-kick after it had come back off the bar.

His final goal may not have been able to stop the title going to Internacional, but it did help underline the ability of a player who endured a disappointing time in Spain with Deportivo La Coruna. Perhaps, unlike Mexico's young bucks, he waited too long for the move to Europe. Next year, though, the 30-year-old will be on his travels once more, joining Kansas City Wizards in the United States.

Andres D'ALESSANDRO

INTERNACIONAL (BRA)

IT is hard to credit that Andres D'Alessandro is 29 as the Argentinian attacking midfielder has the air of an impish adolescent. The Libertadores, though, highlighted his maturity as a player. True, he has not come close to fulfilling the hopes that surrounded him as a teenager at River Plate, but he is extremely adept at dictating the rhythm of the game and, in harness with compatriot Pablo Guinazu, ensured that midfield was Internacional's strongest suit.

D'Alessandro arrived in Brazil in 2008 after a series of frustrations. His time in Europe – with Wolfsburg, on loan at Portsmouth and then at Real Zaragoza – did not live up to expectations, and neither did a move back to Argentina, when he was supposed to be the star man in San Lorenzo's centenary year.

With injury problems and a questionable attitude seemingly things of the past, his set-pieces, clever one-twos and incisive prompting were an important part of Inter's victorious campaign and won him a national team recall, with caretaker coach Sergio Batista bringing him on as a late substitute in the 4-1 victory over Spain in September.

KLEBER

INTERNACIONAL (BRA)

A DECADE ago Kleber looked set to be the long-term replacement for Roberto Carlos as Brazil's left-back, but it never quite happened. For all his class he was found wanting physically. Spells in Germany and Switzerland, with Hannover and Basle, were disappointing, while he was unable to keep hitting the byline for the national team in the way that Brazil have come to expect from their full-backs.

However, his left foot remains a wonderfully precise weapon – as demonstrated in the Libertadores, especially towards the end of the competition when Internacional, under new coach Celso Roth, switched to 4-2-3-1. With first Andrezinho and then Taison (who has since joined Metalist Kharkiv in the Ukraine) used in front of Kleber – right-footed players who took their marker with them when they cut in – it created space down the flank for him to exploit and he set up the equaliser in both legs of the Final against Guadalajara, curling in crosses behind the defence.

Now 30, Kleber turned down the chance to join Al Ain in the UAE after the Libertadores, delighting Inter who are counting on him in the forthcoming Club World Cup.

CUP STARS

Tim Vickery picks half a dozen of the top performers at this year's competition who are still playing their club football in South America

MIRANDA

SAO PAULO (BRA)

A RED card against Venezuela at the end of the World Cup qualifying campaign probably cost Miranda a trip to South Africa, but in the Libertadores he reminded the South American audience he is one of the most accomplished defenders on the continent. Equally happy as one of two or three centre-backs, the latter system probably best showcases his talents. In a back three the flank defender needs to be quick enough to cover the open spaces and ideally should also be proficient at carrying the ball forward to turn defence into attack. Miranda excels in both aspects.

Since leaving Sochaux in France and going back to Brazil to join Sao Paulo in 2006 he has consistently been the best defender in the country, with three successive league titles between 2006 and 2008 to back up his claims. The Libertadores crown may have eluded him but until going out to Internacional in the semi-final, Sao Paulo's defence put together a run of eight consecutive clean sheets.

It was a surprise that Miranda did not move across the Atlantic in the summer transfer window but, at 26, he still has time to return to Europe and make his mark.

Felipe SEYMOUR

UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE (CHL)

HAVING first become known to the Chilean public through his participation in a football-based reality TV show, over the past two years the 23-year-old has turned promise into reality. With Universidad de Chile since he was 17, Seymour made his breakthrough last year as the club won the domestic championship and this year he excelled once more en route to the Libertadores semi-finals.

There is no great subtlety about his game and he is a combative central midfielder, tough in the tackle, with the lung power to supply thrust through the middle and a blistering shot that makes him a danger from long range. He scored two important goals in the campaign, including the injury-time strike that saved *La U* from elimination at the hands of Peru's Alianza Lima in the first knockout round. During the tournament Seymour consistently overshadowed midfield partner and experienced national team player Manuel Iturra, and was blooded by Chile coach Marcelo Bielsa in a friendly against Venezuela in March.

Providing he maintains his progress he will surely be a candidate for competitive action next year in the Copa America.

Mauricio VICTORINO

UNIVERSIDAD DE CHILE (CHL)

EIGHTEEN months ago it was inconceivable that Victorino would appear in a World Cup semi-final, but two consecutive runs to the last four of the Libertadores have given him the platform for his international achievements. In 2009 he was a vital part of the Nacional team that became the first Uruguayan club in 20 years to reach the semi-finals. He repeated the feat this year with *La U*, who became the first Chilean semi-finalists since 1997.

Like so many Uruguayan players, he is from a footballing family. His uncle, Waldemar Victorino, was capped 33 times as a striker in the 1970s and 1980s, and while Mauricio, 28, contributed two goals to the cause in the Libertadores, his speciality is at the back.

No graduate of the big, bruising school of centre-backs, he stands out for the intelligence of his interceptions and the quality of his timing in the tackle. In a counter-attacking side such as Universidad de Chile his value is enormous. Alongside the taller, left-footed Rafael Olarra, he provided the solidity which allowed the team to sit deep, draw their opponents forward, withstand the pressure, then spring out on the break.

Growing pains

Canadian clubs are discovering that fans are ahead of the domestic game

Inter-city rivalry...Toronto's Nana Attakora gets in a header against Montreal Impact in a Canadian Championship match

CANADA IS something of an oddity in the world of professional sport in that it only has one domestic league of its own: the Canadian Football League, a financially fragile, eight-team version of the gridiron game. All its other professional clubs – be they baseball, basketball or even ice hockey sides – play in US-based competitions. And soccer is no exception.

The main excuse is the nation's geographical immensity, which leads to prohibitively expensive travel costs. With a territory of close to four-million square miles, St John's in Newfoundland on the eastern tip of the country is closer to the western coast of Ireland than to Winnipeg, Manitoba, halfway towards the Canadian west coast.

Sporting rivalries have therefore developed mostly in a north-south rather than an east-west axis, with a few rare exceptions of local derbies – most noticeably between Montreal and Toronto, the largest cities of French and English Canada.

These two cities have been hotbeds of the beautiful game for over a century, but it has only been since the golden days of the North American Soccer League (NASL) in the early 1980s that the sport has started to come out of immigrant communities to become a mass product.

Even today the majority of Canada's national side is comprised of the sons or grandsons of immigrants to the Great White North. As a result, the game is still viewed and accepted as a product of multiculturalism and globalisation rather than a home-grown entity – as opposed to the national ice hockey team, an

ever-present measuring stick for both sports fans and media alike. With this in mind, the owners of Canada's three professional football clubs have adopted a two-tier strategy for selling the game, targetting ethnic groups (mostly South and Central Americans or Europeans) and the humongous group of mums and dads whose kids play all year round. Interestingly, the Canadian Soccer Association (CSA) counts on close to 900,000 registered members, which is almost twice the membership of Hockey Canada. It is now up to the clubs to turn that potential support into a regular fan base.

Local audience

One club who have managed to tap into their local audience are Toronto, the first of three Canadian clubs to join Major League Soccer in the United States. Now in their fourth season, the club have yet to qualify for the end-of-season MLS Cup tournament, but they did take part in the CONCACAF Champions League this term for the first time. Although things started brightly with a 2-1 victory over Mexican giants Cruz Azul at BMO Field, a heavy 4-1 defeat at Real Salt Lake put them out of the competition.

With head coach Preki and director of football Mo Johnston walking the plank, assistant coach and former Canada international Nick Dasovic took over a very disenchanted dressing room.

> "CSA counts on close to 900,000 registered members"

Adding insult to injury, Maple Leaf Sports & Entertainment (MLSE), the company which owns Toronto FC – along with the NBA's Toronto Raptors and the NHL's Toronto Maple Leafs – announced a rise in ticket prices for 2011, sparking an immediate and very vocal fan reaction.

Soon, the often-cited MLS model fans showed up at BMO Field with banners of discontent, delaying the renewal of their season tickets, forcing MLSE to send a letter of apology for the team's lack of results and a promise to review the price hike.

Appreciation and knowledge

Increasingly exposed to the world game through domestic and foreign publications and websites, as well as television and radio, Canadians have grown in their appreciation and knowledge of the sport and will no longer except inferior-quality matches. In a clear sign that local fans had already moved a few steps ahead of the clubs, Montreal Impact – who are due to join MLS in 2012 – had to play this season's home legs of their USSF Division II play-off quarter-finals and semi-finals in a half-empty Saputo Stadium.

For a city that recently set attendance records for international

Skyline soccer...a computer simulation of the BC Place Stadium in Vancouver which will be home to the Whitecaps from next season

Past glories...Scotland's Willie Johnston (left) and England World Cup winner Alan Ball were once in Vancouver Whitecaps' ranks

Up a level...Toronto (in red) v Philadelphia in MLS

Not on our watch...disgruntled Toronto fans protest against plans for a hike in ticket prices

matches played next door at the Olympic Stadium, it was a serious reminder that the club's entry into MLS is the only way to an economically viable future.

At the other end of the country, Vancouver Whitecaps will join MLS next year after building a steady fan base with 25 years of playing in the now-defunct Canadian Soccer League and versions of the US second division.

The Whitecaps board, along with Toronto's, have agreed to a change in MLS rules that lowers the number of Canadian players required in their starting line-ups, while recognising Canadians as foreigners within the 16 American clubs.

The CSA have branded this an act of treason in the development of the domestic game, but last year Toronto used four Canadian players, while Montreal had 11 on their books and Vancouver 10. Add to these all the players currently plying their trade in Europe after using these three clubs as a springboard to a more comfortable setting and, whatever CSA officials might say, the one element of the domestic game that has contributed the most to its development is the growing success and steadiness of these three clubs.

With the current restructuring of the US second and third divisions making room for the birth of professional clubs in Edmonton (2011), Ottawa, Victoria and Hamilton (2012 and beyond), as well as with the upcoming coast-to-coast expansion of the semi-professional Canadian Soccer League, football fans will be hoping this enlarged base of elite players will become a catalyst for the eventual return of Canada to the World Cup – a place that has eluded the Canucks since the 1986 finals in Mexico. ●

CANADA

Toronto, Vancouver Whitecaps, Montreal Impact ...a guide to the top teams

1 TORONTO (MLS)
The first Canadian club to enter Major League Soccer, in 2007, the Reds have yet to qualify for the end-of-season play-off tournament. Owned by Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment, the club has been a model in North America in terms of fan support, and the ambiance at BMO Field has been compared to Europe's best. However, their two Canadian Championship victories, in 2009 and 2010, against lower-tier clubs have given little to celebrate.

2 VANCOUVER WHITECAPS (MLS)
The West Coast side are the most decorated in the country, with three North American titles (1979 NASL Soccer Bowl and USL First Division Cup in 2006 and 2008) and four consecutive Canadian titles (CSL Cup 1988 to 1991). After 11 seasons in the now-defunct NASL (1974-84), they were reborn two years later as the 86ers before reverting to their original name in 2001. Under the joint ownership of Greg Kerfoot, Steve Luzco (who is also part-owner of the NBA's Boston Celtics), former Yahoo! president Jeff Mallett and Canada basketball icon Steve Nash, the Whitecaps are set to become Major League Soccer's 18th club next year.

3 MONTREAL IMPACT (USSF)
The three-time North American champions (1994, 2004 and 2009) survived their own death in 2000 with the return of cheese-producing giants Saputo at the helm. Canadian Cup champions in 2008, they attracted continental attention in that year's CONCACAF Champions League, setting the tournament attendance record with over 55,000 at Olympic Stadium for the first leg of the quarter-final against Mexican side Santos Laguna. Reviving the popular success of Montreal Manic in the defunct NASL, Impact are currently in the USSF Division 2 Professional League but are set to join MLS in 2012.

4 EDMONTON (NASL)
Formed in February, the Alberta-based club will step into the American second division – the new NASL – next spring. This year has been spent in preparation, signing players and playing friendlies. Led by former PSV Eindhoven and NEC Nijmegen coach Dwight Lodeweges, they will play their home games at Foote Field, the University of Alberta's 3,500-seat stadium. The aim will be to survive in a city where the Drillers (NASL 1979-82), Brickmen (CSL 1987-90) and Aviators (A-League 2004) did not.

5 BRAMPTON LIONS (CSL)
Founded in 2002 as the Metro Lions, the club moved from Scarborough to Oakville three years later, changing their name to the Oakville Blue Devils. They won the Rogers Cup in 2005 and the National Conference in 2006, before returning to Scarborough as the Canadian Lions. Relocated to Brampton in March 2008 with another name change.

6 BRANTFORD GALAXY (CSL)
Based in Brantford, Ontario, the Galaxy were only formed in February this year when it was announced that the CSL was expanding to 13 teams.

7 HAMILTON CROATIA (CSL)
Founded in Hamilton, Ontario, in 1957, the club won the Ontario Soccer League Provincial West Division, the highest amateur division in the province, in 2009 and joined the CSL this season.

8 LONDON CITY (CSL)
Founded in 1973, they play their home games at Cove Road Stadium in the city of London, Ontario.

9 MILLTOWN (CSL)
One of four new expansion teams this season, the club are based just west of Toronto in Milton, which has the smallest population of the nine community teams in the CSL.

10 MONTREAL IMPACT ACADEMY (CSL)
Founded in 2010, the only Quebec-based team in the CSL. They serve as an academy to parent Impact.

11 NORTH YORK ASTROS (CSL)
Formed in 1990 as North York Atletico Argentina Soccer Club, the club moved to Scarborough in 1993 and the name changed to Scarborough Astros Soccer Club. In 1998 the franchise returned to the city of North York and as North York Astros were a founding member of the Canadian Professional Soccer League (the forerunner of the CSL).

12 PORTUGAL (CSL)
Founded in 2001 as Toronto Supra, they changed their name to Portuguese Supra in 2006 to acknowledge the club's ties to the local Portuguese community in Toronto. Became Portugal FC in 2008.

13 SERBIAN WHITE EAGLES (CSL)
Members of the Canadian National Soccer League from 1968 to 1980, they were the first club to represent Canada on the continental scene, losing 3-1 to Monterrey in the 1975 CONCACAF Champions Cup.

14 ST CATHARINES WOLVES (CSL)
Founded in 1977, the club's colours and badge mimic those of Serie A club Roma.

15 TFC ACADEMY
The youth academy of Toronto and founded in 2008.

16 TORONTO CROATIA
Created in 1956, the Toronto Metros-Croatia won the 1976 Soccer Bowl. However, US TV broadcasters were never happy with the ethnic connection so the club switched to domestic football in Canada.

17 YORK REGION SHOOTERS
Formed in 1998, the club had several different names before becoming York Region Shooters this year.

The movers and shakers in CANADIAN FOOTBALL

TOM ANSELMI
Executive vice-president and chief operating officer of Maple Leaf Sports and Entertainment – the owners of MLS club Toronto and 80 per cent shareholders of Gol TV, which holds the broadcasting rights to MLS, La Liga, the Bundesliga and a few South American leagues' matches.

DICK HOWARD
Member of FIFA's technical committee, the England-born former Canada goalkeeper played in the defunct NASL. Long-time TV pundit, he has shaped the Canadian game in many ways as an author, columnist and coach.

JOEY SAPUTO
President of Montreal Impact and son of Lino Saputo, founder of the largest dairy company in Canada. He often uses the media to drive his message to players and rivals, and his tug-of-war with MLS commissioner Don Garber was settled in 2009 with the approval of Montreal as the 19th club to join the US top tier in 2012.

DOMINIC MAESTRACCI
Current president of the Canadian Soccer Association, his very amicable attitude does not hide an obvious lack of authority at the helm. The Corsica-born medicine scholar at the University of Montreal is currently fighting a challenge to the system of governance that would take away power from the provincial associations that are keeping him in place.

COLIN JOSE
England-born historian and former *World Soccer* correspondent who has spent the last half-century researching and writing on the roots of the beautiful game in the Great White North. The guardian and promoter of a rich football past, he reminds the growing number of young enthusiasts that the ball has been rolling in Canada since the late 19th century.

MARC DOS SANTOS
The 33-year-old head coach of Montreal Impact is ambitious and the up-and-coming star of the Canadian coaching scene. One of the rare Canucks to hold the UEFA "A" coaching licence, he possesses coaching experience in Europe as well as Africa.

JASON DEVOS
Former central defender who spent 13 seasons in England and Scotland, between 1996 and 2008, with Darlington, Dundee United, Wigan Athletic and Ipswich Town. Also spent eight years with the national team, including five as captain. Now works as a television pundit for the Canadian Broadcasting Corporation.

DWAYNE DE ROSARIO
Three-times player of the year (2005-07), the attacking midfielder is the poster boy of Toronto and the national team. One of the few players making his mark in North America, he won four MLS Cup titles with San Jose and Houston before joining TFC in 2009. Is only four goals behind Canada's record international goalscorer Dale Mitchell.

BOBBY LENARDUZZI
One of the game's most respected decision-makers, the former international defender was a member of the only Canada team to play at the World Cup, in 1986 in Mexico. Acknowledged as one of the best defenders in the NASL with Vancouver Whitecaps, the club he now chairs, he spent six years managing Vancouver 86ers before leading the national team for six more. Often on TV as an expert analyst, he is an unwilling prospect to lead the CSA.

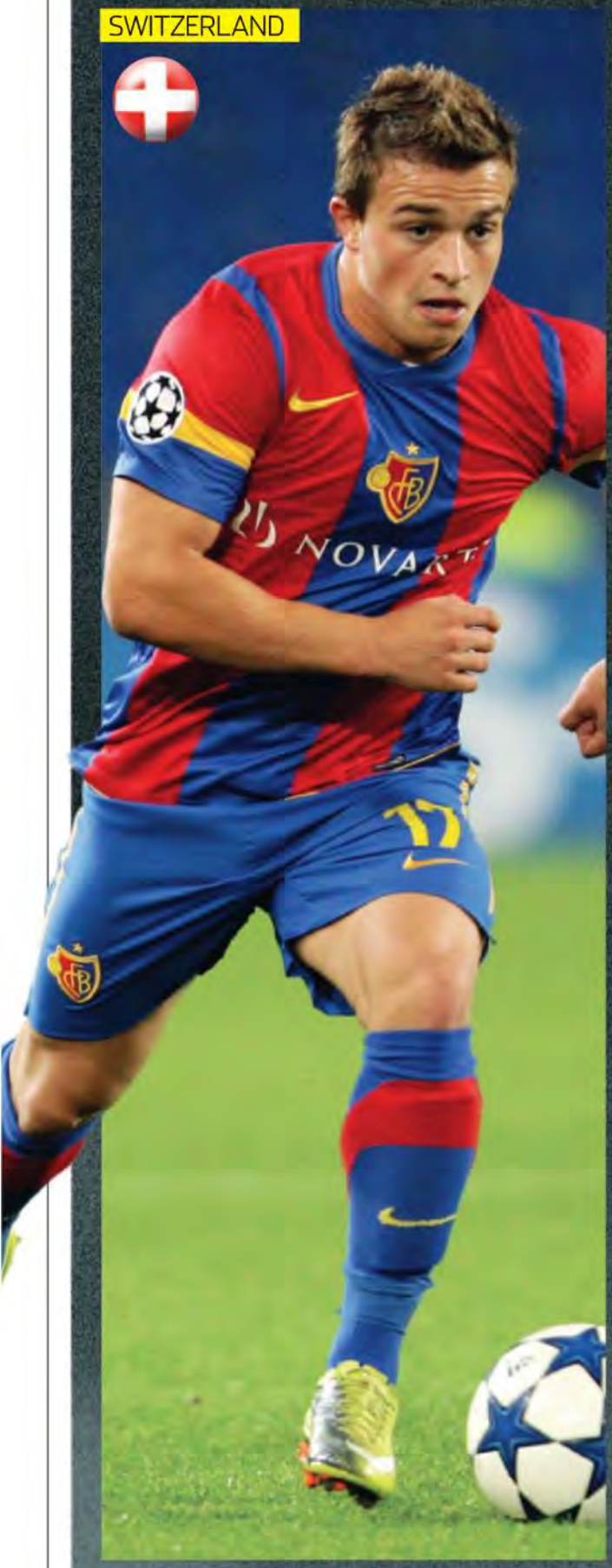
BACKGROUND BRIEFING

● The Canadian Soccer League, created in 2006, is the heir of the National Soccer League (1926-1992), Canadian National Soccer League (1993-97) and Canadian Professional Soccer League (1998-2005). At present it consists of 13 teams who play a single championship followed by a play-off tournament. Plans are in place to expand the league to three or four divisions in the coming years to include clubs from Western Canada, Quebec and the Maritimes.

● Toronto have been the only Canadian side in Major League Soccer since 2007, but both Vancouver Whitecaps (2011) and Montreal Impact (2012) are set to join shortly. Edmonton will join the US second tier in 2011 and business groups in Victoria, Hamilton and Ottawa have signalled their interest in following them.

● The Canadian Championship is the gateway to the country's only entry into the CONCACAF Champions League. In its three original editions only the three professional clubs have been admitted, with Montreal Impact winning the inaugural tournament and Toronto the following two.

SWITZERLAND



Xherdan Shaqiri

Kosovo-born teenager playing for fun

FUN IS UNLIKELY to be the first word which comes to mind when thinking about Swiss football...unless you are talking about Xherdan Shaqiri.

Cheeky and instinctive, the 19-year-old Kosovo-born winger looks like he might have learned the game playing on the streets of South America and, at 5ft 7in, he has the same squat figure as some of Argentina's more impetuous players.

Shaqiri made his professional debut for Basle little more than a year ago in a Europa League qualifier, pulled on a Switzerland shirt for the first time in a friendly against Uruguay in March and earned a surprise call-up to the World Cup squad this summer.

But it was in two matches earlier this season – for Switzerland against England in a Euro 2012 qualifier and then for Basle at home to Bayern Munich in the Champions League – where he revealed his true potential.

Enormously difficult to dispossess, Shaqiri's habit of running at the opposition, turning and firing in a quick shot or cross with his left foot created danger every time he got the ball.

He was rewarded with a superb goal against England and a standing ovation against Bayern, even though he was on the losing side on both occasions.

"He lives on the fun that he has on the pitch and if there's no fun, it becomes difficult for him," says his club manager Thorsten Fink. "He's a real street footballer."

So far Shaqiri has not been lured away from St Jakob-Park, but Fink realises that he faces an uphill struggle to both hold on to his player and keep Shaqiri's feet on the ground.

"We have to take care of him because now, with all the attention, he's pushed and pushed by the media, but it doesn't have any positive effect on such a young player," explains Fink.

"He has the potential to become a great player, but this season he has to prove himself."

As if to prove his point, Fink played party-pooper after the Bayern match, saying: "I told him that he's not as good as he thinks or as his friends tell him he is."

Despite that, Shaqiri does not come across as the sort of player who would go off the rails.

One of four Kosovar players in Switzerland's World Cup squad, he is happy to talk about the importance of his family – as well as his background and the thorny issue of Kosovar immigrants.

"They come from another culture, have had a different education and not all of them can adapt," he says. "That applies just to a few, but then we all have a negative image. Only a few fall into that category, but we all get tarred with the same brush.

"I think anyone who is a criminal does not belong in Switzerland and should go back to their home country."

Shaqiri knows that he has responsibilities and not just as a role model. "I've learned to handle money, I save up so I can live after my time as a footballer," he says. "I learned at home that one must earn everything. My father worked hard, he had to raise a family and support relatives back home."

Brian Homewood

FACT FILE

Club Basle
Country Switzerland
Born October 10, 1991, in Gnjilane, Kosovo
International debut March 2010, v Uruguay
International caps 8 (1 goal)
Honours 2010 Swiss Super League, 2010 Swiss Cup

Kevin De BRUYNE

Headstrong performer at table-topping Genk

THANKS TO his youthful features and spiky blonde hair, he is a spitting image of Belgium's most famous son Tintin – and like the cartoon-character sleuth, the 19-year-old Genk attacking midfielder could soon be the subject of an adventure of his own, with Chelsea and Bayern Munich among those on his case.

Part of an impressive new wave of Belgian talent, De Bruyne only became a regular starter for Genk in the second half of last season – but what a six-month masterclass it turned out to be as the self-assured teenager gave a tuneful recital of poise, will to win and creativity.

Whether on the left or through the middle, his technique, explosive energy – particularly when cutting in and letting fly with a powerful right-foot shot – and insatiable desire to be in the thick of the action sparked the club's domination of the Europa League play-offs.

Previous coach Hein Vanhaezebrouck brought De Bruyne along gently, but his successor Franky Vercauteren saw no need and within days of being appointed in December last year installed him in his first XI. Despite being tracked by Europe's big boys, De Bruyne extended his contract until 2015; not that he is likely to stay. As his value rises with each brilliant performance this term, Genk will be unable to resist bids of £10million.

If De Bruyne, who made his national team debut this season, has a fault it is his ego. After "advising" Vercauteren how he should be best used, his coach slapped him down, saying "Football is a team game. I shouldn't have to remind him." Will De Bruyne learn his lesson?

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Genk
Country Belgium
Born August 16, 1991, in Drongen
International debut August 2010 v Finland
International caps 1 (0 goals)
Honours none

BELGIUM

CYPRUS

Andreas AVRAAM

Industrious winger is island's big hope

OMONIA NICOSIA'S ambitious president Miltiades Neophytou insists one of his key principles is to corral as much locally sourced talent as possible – hence the €1million spent roping in the outstanding Apollon Limassol left-winger in the summer.

Avraam, 23, did his reputation a power of good last season as he played a leading role in Apollon's Cypriot Cup triumph and creditable fourth-place league finish.

His dynamism, finesse, accurate crossing, ability to make incisive blindside runs and decent finishing, added to industry and selflessness, make him a real threat.

"Technically, Andreas is so gifted," says former Apollon coach Thomas Von Heesen. "His first touch is normally perfect and he can manipulate a ball like few others. He can go forward as well as graft for the team. He is disciplined enough to fill in at full-back if required. He's filled that role for Cyprus."

A former under-19 captain, Avraam made his full international debut a year ago and recently headed a late equaliser in a 4-4 draw in Portugal in a Euro 2012 qualifier.

"The best moment of my career," he said afterwards. Up to now.

Nick Bidwell

FACT FILE

Club Omonia Nicosia
Country Cyprus
Born June 6, 1987, in Larnaca
Previous clubs Omonia Aradippou, Apollon Limassol
International debut November 2008 v Belarus
International caps 15 (2 goals)
Honours 2010 Cypriot Cup

Matias AGUIRREGARAY

URUGUAY

A chip off the old block

REACHING THE semi-finals in South Africa shows that Uruguayan football has a vibrant present as well as a glorious past. That a country with a population of little more than three million can finish fourth in the World Cup is an extraordinary achievement and illustrates the force of a tradition that passes from generation to generation.

Football in Uruguay is a family affair and many contemporary players – Diego Forlan is the most obvious example – are sons of former stars. Matias Aguirregaray, meanwhile, is the latest.

His father Oscar – *"El Vasco"* (the Basque) – was a solid defender with a long club career and 10 international caps. But *"El Vasquito"* has the potential to go even further.

Had everything gone according to plan, the attacking right-back might even have been at Internazionale this season. He was being lined up for a move, with the possibility of Maicon following Jose Mourinho to Real Madrid, but Italy's disastrous World Cup showing this summer forced a reduction in the permitted number of foreign players.

The fact that the move stalled was probably for the best as, for all his strength and pace, Aguirregaray has yet to achieve the attacking thrust of Maicon, and his career may well benefit from a longer spell in the yellow-and-black of Penarol, colours that practically form his second skin.

Although born in southern Brazil while his father was playing for Internacional, Matias grew up with Penarol. Oscar had a long spell with the Montevideo club, and from the age of six his son accompanied him to training sessions, sat in on team talks and hung around the hotel.

It was a sweet moment, then, when Aguirregaray Jnr helped the club avoid making unwanted history earlier this year. After their championship win in 2003, Penarol went six seasons without a league title to equal their worst-ever run, and it nearly became seven.

Having beaten old rivals Nacional in the first leg of the 2009-10 Final, they went behind in the return – until Aguirregaray burst through to score the goal that clinched the title. The fact that it came from a subtle left-foot shot merely underlined the talent of this athletic, right-sided player.

"It was the happiest day of my life," he said. "To score and be champion with Penarol was what I wanted to do ever since I was a kid."

Other childhood dreams may also come true in the sky blue of Uruguay. Aguirregaray captained the side in last year's South American Under-20 Championship. Come the World Youth Cup he was only a squad player, with his place taken by Adrian Gunino, now on loan at Toulouse, but starring for Penarol has given Aguirregaray a powerful platform in Uruguay – and with his speed, lung power and ability he is full of eye-catching characteristics.

The 21-year-old will hope to be in contention for a senior cap in next year's Copa America and the subsequent World Cup qualifiers – a move which could bring him into conflict with his father, as Oscar is currently working as an assistant to Peru coach Sergio Markarian.

Tim Vickery

FACT FILE

Club Penarol
Country Uruguay
Born April 1, 1989, in Porto Alegre (Bra)
Honours 2009-10 Uruguayan Primera Division

FIVE TO FOLLOW: EASTERN EUROPE

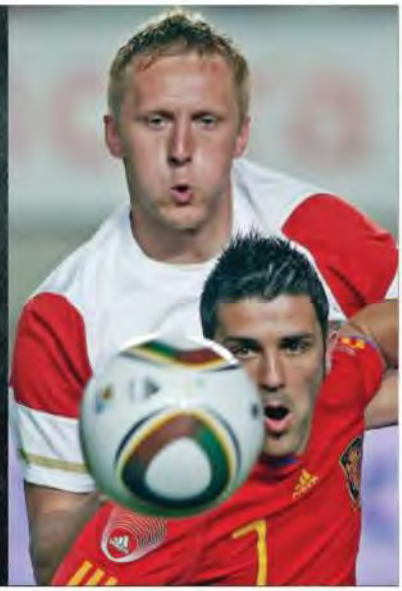
Nick Bidwell profiles young talents from the former Soviet Bloc

Club/Country Palermo (Ita)/Poland
Born February 3, 1988
Position Defender

Kamil GLIK

POLISH fans with long memories are increasingly coming around to the belief that this towering centre-back is the best to emerge in these parts since Jerzy Gorgon and Wladyslaw Zmuda formed such an impenetrable barrier at the heart of the national team at the 1974 World Cup.

Glik spent two seasons with Real Madrid's C team before, frustrated by a lack of opportunities, he went home and joined Piast Gliwice. He has impressed Palermo so much that they see him as a replacement for Bundesliga-bound Simon Kjaer.



Club/Country Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk/Ukraine
Born September 29, 1989
Position Winger

Yevhen KONOPLYANKA

THIS super-charged attacker is expected by many to take over from where Andriy Shevchenko left off a few years ago.

Elf-like as well as a phenomenal dribbler, he has more than a hint of Lionel Messi in his game and has the added advantage of being able to fill any number of roles – his favourite position wide on the left, as a conventional striker or in the hole.

A first-team regular at Dnipro since earlier this year, he is now making an impact in the national team.

Club/Country CSKA Moscow/Russia
Born September 17, 1988
Position Midfielder

Pavel MAMAEV

PARACHUTED into the national squad this autumn by new coach Dick Advocaat, the 22-year-old Muscovite is effectively two players rolled into one: a combative and hard-running defensive midfielder crossed with an astute two-footed passer, a skilful deliverer of piercing through balls.

A graduate of the Torpedo Moscow academy, he was lured away in 2007 by CSKA and became a pillar of the side within 12 months. Much more menacing since cutting off his curly locks.

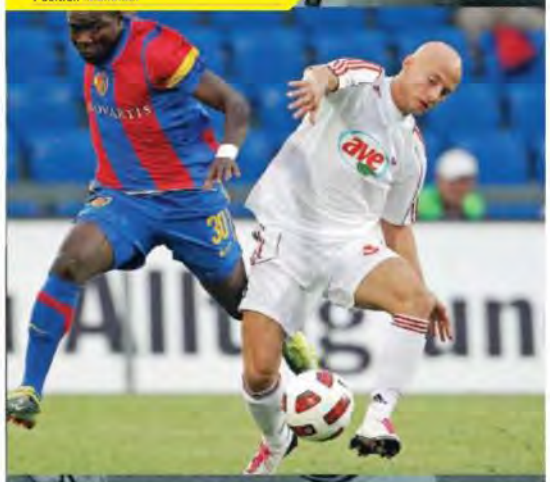
Club/Country Empoli (Ita)/Georgia
Born March 24, 1990
Position Forward

Levan MCHEDLIDZE

LAST Christmas, while on loan at Palermo from Empoli, the Georgia international did his reputation untold harm by walking out on the Sicilians – an immature act which led to his contract being rescinded.

However, the fact remains he is very gifted and, aware that numerous calcio-watchers have compared him to Zlatan Ibrahimovic, Serie B Empoli opted to give him a second chance this season. Tall, powerful and blessed with an excellent first touch, he usually plays on the left wing for Georgia.

Club/Country Debrecen/Hungary
Born June 6, 1988
Position Midfielder



Jozsef VARGA

NO mean striker as a teenager, Varga has since been on a positional retreat, developing into an intensely driven and particularly effective midfield enforcer, a player with an insatiable appetite for plugging gaps in front of the back four and an early warning system of a football brain.

With hometown club Debrecen from the age of seven, he has been a first-team regular for the past two seasons and a vital cog in their back-to-back league titles. He was voted best newcomer in the league in 2008-09.

TUNIS The clubs, the history, what to see, how to get there

Northern

Peterjon Cresswell takes a tour of one of north Africa's great capitals

HAVING HOSTED three Nations Cup Finals, staged the first-ever World Youth Championship and now acknowledged as home to one of the continent's fiercest club rivalries, the Tunisian capital is among the most fervent football cities in Africa.

Tunis was also the venue for perhaps two of the country's greatest footballing achievements: the 4-1 defeat of Egypt in 1977 that ensured qualification for the World Cup for the first time, and the 2-1 victory over local rivals Morocco in 2004 which gave the country its one and only African Nations Cup title.

Few records exist of football in Tunisia before the formation of the national league in 1921, but the early domestic game was run by the governing French, who played alongside Italian, Maltese and Jewish residents.

Of the handful of local clubs who existed at this time, two were selected to play each other for the Franco-Arab Cup, which was set up in honour of Tunisian soldiers who had fought in World War I. The game, played between Club Tunisois (which was open to Jews) and Stade Africain (consisting mainly of French but open to Muslims), led to fighting on the pitch at Belvedere Park and fierce riots in the Jewish quarter of Bab Carthagene. The result was a fusion of the two clubs, and latter-day giants Esperance Sportive de Tunis (formed in 1919) and Club Africain (1920) both have historic links to Stade Africain.

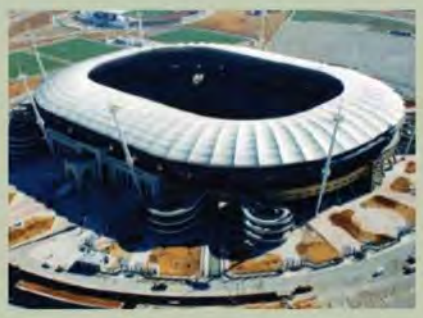
The first national championship was won by Racing Club de Tunis in 1922, with other local sides such as Stade Gaulois, Avant-Garde, US Tunisienne and Italia also winning the trophy in its formative years. In fact, clubs from Tunis won all bar one of the first 17 league titles, but it wasn't until 1942 that Esperance, formed at the cafe of the same

exposure

Provocative...an Esperance fan makes an obscene gesture at opposition supporters during this season's African Champions League semi-final with Egypt's Al Ahly

THE STADIUMS

STADE EL MENZAH
This 45,000-capacity stadium was built in 1967 and is used by Club Africain and Esperance for most of their home games. The arena also has athletic facilities and has staged a host of entertainment events, including pop star Michael Jackson's one and only concert in Tunisia, in October 1996.



STADE DU 7 NOVEMBRE
Derby matches between Club Africain and Esperance are held here. The 60,000-capacity arena also stages Tunisia's home internationals, hosted this year's French Super Cup Final between Marseille and Paris Saint-Germain, and will be the venue for the home leg of Esperance's CAF Champions League Final.

STADE CHEDLI ZOUITEN
Home of Stade Tunisien, this 20,000-capacity, multi-purpose ground is named after the former Esperance president who was responsible for introducing the club's iconic blood-and-gold shirts. It was here that Tunisia lost the1965 African Nations Cup Final, 3-2 after extra time, to Ghana.

name in their home neighbourhood of Bab Souika, won their first championship. Club Africain, who were based at Bab Djedid, didn't win their first league title until 1947.

After Tunisian independence in 1956, clubs from Sousse and Sfax challenged the hegemony of the capital.

Meanwhile, with the growth of the African club competitions, Esperance and Club Africain drew big crowds to the neutral Stade El Menzah, which opened in 1967, and it was here, 10 years later, that Tunisia first qualified for the World Cup. Leading the side that day was playmaker Tarak Dhiab, arguably the most legendary figure in Esperance's history, while the goalkeeper was Club Africain's Sadok Sassi, nicknamed "Attouga", who missed out on the 1978 finals through injury.

Later stages

By now the two great Tunis rivals were regularly reaching the later stages of the big continental club tournaments. Club Africain became the first Tunisian side to win the African Cup of

Champions Clubs, beating Uganda's Villa SC 7-3 on aggregate in the 1991 Final, while Esperance followed suit in 1994 with a 3-1 aggregate victory over Zamalek of Egypt.

Both clubs had built up-to-date training headquarters by the start of this decade – Esperance at Le Parc Hassan Belkhodja and

> **"The most recent derby was played behind closed doors for the first time"**

CA at Parc Mounir Kebaili. And while sharing Stade El Menzah, a new arena, the Stade du 7 Novembre, was built near the harbour complex of Rades, eight miles from central Tunis, in 2001 to host the Mediterranean Games. This 60,000-capacity stadium is where derbies between the two are now played and matches rarely pass without incident – to such an extent that the most recent, played in May, was played behind closed doors for the first time.

Esperance currently lead Club African 23-12 on titles won, but the capital's third top-flight club, Stade Tunisien – who were founded in 1948 – are not without some success of their own, though you have to go all the way back to 1965 for the last of their four league crowns. ●

Fall guy... Esperance's Zine El Abidine Soussi comes off worst in a clash with Club Africain's Alexis Enam

TUNIS SURVIVAL GUIDE

Tunisian delight

● ARRIVAL & TRANSPORT

International flights arrive at Tunis-Carthage, five miles north east of the city centre. Buses 35 and 635 run to town, while a taxi should cost around 6 Tunisian dinar (TD). The city centre is compact and walkable, though buses and a five-line tramway serve the city. Buy your ticket, around 0.5TD, from kiosks. Most taxi journeys should be well under 4TD.

● HOTELS & INFORMATION

The tourist office is at 1 avenue Mohamed V (+216 71 341 077). A luxury choice of accommodation would be Les Berges du Lac Concorde (rue du Lac Turkana, +216 71 961 951, www.tunis.concorde-hotels.com, €120), with a pool, gym and spa overlooking Lake Tunis. The hotel with the most character is the Dar El Medina (64 rue Sidi ben Arous, +216 71 563 022, www.darelmedina.com, €150-€200), which is set amid the souks.

● EATING & DRINKING

Couscous, tajine quiches and brik (thin pastries) are the staple, complemented by Celtia beer or a local Merlot from Vignerons de Carthage. Alcohol is served almost everywhere. For a memorable meal in the 40-50TD price range, dine in the medina at Dar El Jeid (5-10 rue Dar el Jeid, +216 71 560 916). Le Carthage (10 rue Ali Bach Hamba, +216 71 255 614) is cheaper with a three-course menu. For seafood, try nearby L'Orient (7 rue Ali Bach Hamba, +216 71 252 061). Hotel bars are the safest bet for after-dark entertainment, most notably Bar Jamaica on the 10th floor of the El Hana (49 avenue Habbi Bourguiba).

● DAYTIME ENTERTAINMENT

The souks in the medina are a must – a labyrinth of mosques, minarets, workshops and bazaars. This is not only the place to find crafts, clothes and exotic spices, but also many of the city's major landmarks. It is centrepieced by the vast Great Mosque, built in the ninth century and embellished by the white domes of the Mosque of Sidi Mehrez, built by the Ottomans. You'll also find the Palace of Dar Ben Abdallah, which houses the Museum of Popular Arts and Traditions. The other must-see museum is Le Bardo, in the suburb of the same name, which has one of the finest collections of Roman mosaics in the world.

● MATCH DAY

El Menzah is north of the city centre in the neighbourhood of the same name. Matches usually take place on Sunday afternoons and tickets, costing 10-15TD, are sold on match day or from club's headquarters in advance (www.clubafricain.com and www.est.org.tn). Take metro leger line 2 from Republique to Jeunesse or Cite Sportive. The Stade du 7 Novembre in Rades can be reached in 20 minutes on a SNCFT suburban train from Place Barcelona in downtown Tunis.

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

• Stade El Menzah
Nov 7 Esperance v Hamman-Sousse
Nov 28 Esperance v Kairouan
Dec 11 Club Africain v Stade Tunisien
Dec 26 Esperance v Marsa

• Stade du 7 Novembre
Nov 13 Esperance v TP Mazembe (DRC)
Nov 21 Club Africain v Esperance

• Stade Chedli Zouiten
Nov 28 Stade Tunisien v Marsa
Dec 25 Stade Tunisien v Etoile Sahel

(always check fixtures before travelling)

More Soccer Cities at worldsoccer.com/travel

MEMORIES

The great teams, big personalities and major talking points

MALCOLM ALLISON

Champagne strategist

Brian Glanville remembers the former Manchester City and Crystal Palace manager who died in October, aged 83

TRAUMAS SCARRED the somewhat torrid yet talented life of the late Malcolm Allison. First, there was the tuberculosis which afflicted him as a 29-year-old West Ham United centre-half of undoubted competence, an illness which alas would cost him half a lung and finished his playing career.

Years later, after a productive partnership as an innovative coach alongside the manager Joe Mercer, a group of Manchester City fans, alarmed at the prospect of Malcolm leaving the club, conspired to make him manager after buying the shares of director Frank Johnson, and Mercer, an invaluable restraint on Malcolm's more impetuous urges, was kicked upstairs to become general manager.

Malcolm now had the bit between his teeth and, with another championship clearly in sight as late as March, he proceeded to over egg the pudding by buying Rodney Marsh from Queens Park Rangers. There was never any doubt about Marsh's exceptional abilities, but he wasn't the right man for City and his arrival disrupted a hitherto successful team. To make room for him, Allison fatally dropped his right-half and captain Mike Doyle and things fell apart as Derby County pipped City on the post.

City faded and Malcolm found himself back in his beloved London, in charge of a Crystal Palace team then down in the Third Division, but whom he revitalised, not least with a splendid FA Cup run which took them all the way to the semi-final of the FA Cup in 1976, beating Leeds United, Chelsea and Sunderland on the way.

Ever flamboyant, cigar open in his mouth, fedora perched jauntily on his head, Malcolm gave every member of his Palace squad a nickname, printed on the back of their tracksuit tops. His, in all modesty, was "The Judge".

Born in Dartford, Malcolm was bright enough to have gone to grammar school, but knowing it would mean he'd have to play rugby rather than soccer, he deliberately failed the 11-plus examination so he could go to a secondary modern.

After a spell with a local amateur club, he was signed by Charlton Athletic, where he soon showed his defiant temperament. At training one day, Jimmy Seed, Charlton's celebrated manager, came by him with a visitor, whom he introduced to Allison. Malcolm responded by caustically telling Seed that this was the first time he had ever spoken to him. No great surprise then that he should subsequently be transferred to West Ham, where he found a kindred spirit in the Irish international left-back Noel Cantwell who, like himself, was interested in tactics and training.

Beth, the first of his several wives, whom he married when he was 20, said that "while he was recovering, he decided to prove himself. I think he came to the conclusion that he had one life and he was going to live it to the full." This, arguably to the point of self destruction, in a welter of champagne and bunny girls, he did.

Not everyone joined in the chorus of acclaim during his Manchester City days. I remember once sitting behind George Best on a Manchester United team bus – unthinkable in these divided days – when he turned to me and said: "They're making Malcolm Allison the new England coach; they are putting the seats in his mouth!"

> "They're making Malcolm Allison the new England coach; they are putting the seats in his mouth"
>
> *George Best*

Malcolm began his coaching career with non-league Bath City, moving to Canada's Toronto City, then to Plymouth Argyle and, in 1965, to Manchester City, with whom he would have a later but unhappy short spell in 1979-80, just as he did at Crystal Palace the following season.

On leaving Palace he became a wanderer, managing Galatasaray in Istanbul, for two seasons, Plymouth briefly again, and Sporting Lisbon, where he won the Portuguese title. Later in Portugal he would have spells at Vitoria Setubal and Farense. In England he took charge of Middlesbrough from 1982 to 1984, Kuwait after that, and then ran Bristol Rovers whom he joined on New Year's Eve, 1992. He lost the job in 1993.

Despite living what might be euphemistically described as a "variegated" romantic life, his liaisons tended to last. His marriage to Beth endured for 22 years, producing four children, and his ultimate partnership with Lynn Salton survived for 17 years, producing a daughter. Alas it ended tempestuously in 2000 when Allison tried to knock down the door of her house.

In his last years, alcoholism and depression took their grim toll, to the point where he once pitifully remarked, "I don't remember the days any more."

But there were so many better days to be remembered and one thinks of him in his prime, humorous, genial and generous. Certainly among the outstanding post war coaches of his day. ●

FROM THE ARCHIVES January 1972

After Malcolm Allison had taken over the manager's job full-time at Maine Road, Martin Rogers wrote in *World Soccer*: "Malcolm Allison is and always has been a gambler. He thrives on the challenge – but looking at the players at Maine Road, one wonders whether his approach, his adventure, is so much of a gamble. The best gamble, after all, is if you have a fistful of aces.

"For Malcolm there is always the necessity to push on with new ideas, and his spirit of inventive exploration will be good for more than Manchester City.

"What if the glitter tarnishes? 'All this business about pressure is over-stated,' he says. 'I don't propose to let these so called pressures bother me too much.'"

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WORLD SERVICE

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Dutch delight

Holland players celebrate with Klaas-Jan Huntelaar (No9) after he scores against Sweden in a 4-1 victory in Amsterdam to maintain their 100 per cent record in Euro 2012 qualifying Group E. More information, page 85

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ALBANIA

Stand-in ends run

Assistant coach Dzemal Mustedanagic stood in for national boss Josip Kuze – who was hospitalised after suffering a stroke the previous week – as Albania drew 1-1 at home to Bosnia-Herzegovina in the Euro 2012 qualifiers.

However, the side's run of eight games unbeaten, plus their reign at the top of Group D, ended four days later when Mustedanagi lost his second game in charge, 2-0 away to Belarus.

ALGERIA

Foxes shocked

Having parted company with coach Rabah Saadane after only drawing their opening African Nations Cup qualifier, Algeria lost their first outing in the competition under new boss Abdelhak Benchikha.

The Desert Foxes were surprisingly beaten 2-0 by the Central African Republic – a team who had only won one competitive game previously, back in 1973.

ANGOLA

Amaral appointment

Assistant coach Zeca Amaral has replaced Herve Renard as boss of the national side.

Win...Armenia's Marcos Pizzelli

ARMENIA

Hope for the future

Goals from Yura Movsisyan, Gevorg Ghazaryan and Henrikh Mkhitaryan gave Armenia a 3-1 win over this summer's World Cup finalists Slovakia.

"Victory is always pleasant, but a victory like this, with a lot of youngsters, offers hope for the future," said captain Sargis Hovsepyan, who won his 116th cap.

RESULTS

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS

Group A

Oct 8 - Vienna
Austria 3 (Prodl 3, Arnautovic 53, 90+2)
Azerbaijan 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 26,500. **Ref:** Vollquartz (Den)
Austria: Macho - Schiemer, Fuchs, Junuzovic (Baumgartlinger 78), Arnautovic, Prodl, Scharner, Klein, Harnik (Kavlak 55), Linz (Hoffer 59), Maierhofer.
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Melikov, Yunisoglu, Shukurov, Allahverdiyev, Dzhavadov (R A Sadygov 74), S Abbasov, E Mammadov (Nadyrov 59), Aliyev, R F Sadygov, Amirguliyev.

Oct 8 - Berlin
Germany 3 (Klose 42, 87, Ozil 79)
Turkey 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 74,244. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Germany: Neuer - Lahm, Mertesacker, Badstuber, Westermann, Khedira, Kroos, Muller, Ozil (Marin 90), Podolski (Trasch 86), Klose (Cacau 90).
Turkey: Volkan Demirel - Servet, Omer, Emre Belozoglu, Hamit Altintop, Gokhan Gonul, Ozer, Mehmet Aurelio (Tuncay 24), Nuri (Sercan 78), Halil Altintop (Semih 63), Sabri.

Oct 8 - Astana
Kazakhstan 0
Belgium 2 (Ogunjimi 52, 70)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Borski (Pol)
Kazakhstan: Sidelnikov - Geteriyev, Kirov, Abdulin, Kislitsyn, Karpovich, Zhumaskaliyev (Averchenko 87), Khizhnichenko, Nurgaliyev (Rozhkov 74), Schmidtgal, Popov. *Sent off: Kislitsyn 68min.*
Belgium: Bailly - Alderweireld, Van Buyten, Lombaerts, Deschacht, Simons, Witsel, Fellaini, Lukaku (Ogunjimi 46), Vossen, Van Damme (Legear 79).

Oct 12 - Baku
Azerbaijan 1 (R F Sadygov 38)
Turkey 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Deaconu (Rom)
Azerbaijan: Agayev - Melikov (Chertoganov 45+2), Yunisoglu, Shukurov, Allahverdiyev, Dzhavadov (V Huseynov 85), R F Sadygov, Abushev, Nadyrov, Amirguliyev, Guliyev (Aliyev 71).
Turkey: Volkan Demirel - Servet, Hakan Balta, Emre Belozoglu, Hamit Altintop, Gokhan Gonul, Semih, Tuncay (Sercan 62), Ozer (Nihat 46), Selcuk Inan (Halil Altintop 82), Ibrahim Toroman.

Oct 12 - Brussels
Belgium 4 (Vossen 11, Fellaini 47, Ogunjimi 87, Lombaerts 90)
Austria 4 (Schiemer 14, 62, Arnautovic 29, Harnik 90+3)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 30,000. **Ref:** Dean (Eng)
Belgium: Bailly - Alderweireld (Boyata 46), Kompany, Vertonghen, Simons (Lukaku 73), Witsel, Fellaini (Hazard 81), Ogunjimi, Vossen, Legear, Lombaerts.
Austria: Macho - Schiemer, Fuchs, Junuzovic (Pehlivan 72), Arnautovic (Harnik 88), Kavlak (Hoffer 56), Baumgartlinger, Prodl, Scharner, Klein, Maierhofer. *Sent off: Scharner 68min.*

Oct 12 - Astana
Kazakhstan 0
Germany 3 (Klose 48, Gomez 76, Podolski 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 20,000. **Ref:** Tudor (Rom)
Kazakhstan: Sidelnikov - Geteriyev, Kirov, Abdulin, Zhumaskaliyev, Khizhnichenko (Finonchenko 79), Nurgaliyev (Averchenko 63), Schmidtgal, Popov, M Azovski, Irismetov (Rozhkov 68).
Germany: Neuer - Lahm, Mertesacker, Badstuber, Westermann, Khedira, Kroos, Muller (Marin 71), Ozil (Cacau 79), Podolski, Klose (Gomez 55).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Germany	4	4	0	0	13	1	12
Austria	3	2	1	0	9	4	7
Turkey	4	2	0	2	6	6	6
Belgium	4	1	1	2	8	8	4
Azerbaijan	3	1	0	2	2	9	3
Kazakhstan	4	0	0	4	0	10	0

Group B

Oct 8 - Andorra La Vella
Andorra 0
Macedonia 2 (Naumoski 42, Sikov 60)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 500. **Ref:** Mazeika (Lit)
Andorra: Gomes - Bernaus, Silva, C Martinez (Jimenez 74), Vieira, Gomez, Moreno, Mejias (Lorenzo 62), Ayala (Bousenine 86), Escura, Vales.
Macedonia: Nuredinovski - Sikov, Noveski, I Mitreski, Georgievski (Gjurovski 34), Trickovski, Sumulikoski (Grncarov 83), Ristic, Naumoski (Ibraimi 73), Despotovski, Lazarevski.

Oct 8 - Yerevan
Armenia 3 (Movsisyan 23, Ghazaryan 50, Henrikh Mkhitaryan 89)
Slovakia 1 (Weiss 37)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 9,000. **Ref:** Orsato (Ita)
Armenia: Berezovsky - K Mkrtchyan, Hovsepyan, Arzumanyan (Arakelyan 79), Pizzelli (Artur Edigaryan 72), Ghazaryan, Movsisyan, Mkoyan, Pachajyan (Manucharyan 46), Artak Edigaryan, Henrikh Mkhitaryan.
Slovakia: Mucha - Pekarik, Skrtel, Zabavnik (Sebo 81), Karhan, Weiss, Sestak, Stoch (Holosko 57), Kopunek (Kucka 57), Salata, Hamsik.

Oct 8 - Dublin
Republic of Ireland 2 (Keane pen 72, Long 78)
Russia 3 (Kerzhakov 11, Dzagoev 29, Shirokov 50)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 50,411. **Ref:** Trattou (Cyp)
Rep Ireland: Given - St Ledger, Kilbane, O'Shea, Dunne, Whelan (Gibson 66), Lawrence (Long 62), McGeady, Green, Doyle (Fahey 71), Keane.
Russia: Akinfeev - Anyukov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Zhirkov, Dzagoev (A Berezutsky 85), Shirokov, Denisov, Zyryanov (Semshov 68), Arshavin, Kerzhakov (Pogrebnyak 80).

Oct 12 - Yerevan
Armenia 4 (Ghazaryan 4, Henrikh Mkhitaryan 16, Movsisyan 33, Pizzelli 52)
Andorra 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 11,000. **Ref:** Mikulski (Pol)
Armenia: Berezovsky - Hovsepyan, Arzumanyan, Artur Edigaryan, Pizzelli (Yuspashyan 83), Ghazaryan (Malakyan 67), Manucharyan, Movsisyan (Goharyan 53), Mkoyan, Artak Edigaryan, Henrikh Mkhitaryan.
Andorra: Gomes - Bernaus, Silva, I Lima, C Martinez (Rubio 87), Vieira, Gomez, Moreno (Jimenez 51), Vales (Andorra 64), Ayala, Escura.

Oct 12 - Skopje
Macedonia 0
Russia 1 (Kerzhakov 8)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Johannesson (Swe)
Macedonia: Nuredinovski - Sikov, Noveski, I Mitreski, Trickovski, Sumulikoski, Gjurovski (Alimi 79), Naumoski, Despotovski (Georgievski 78), Lazevski, Ibraimi (Ristic 49).
Russia: Akinfeev - Anyukov, V Berezutsky, Ignashevich, Zhirkov, Shirokov, Denisov, Zyryanov, Kerzhakov (Pogrebnyak 79), Arshavin (Bystrov 81), Dzagoev (A Berezutsky 61).

Oct 12 - Zilina
Slovakia 1 (Durica 36)
Republic of Ireland 1 (St Ledger 16)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 10,892. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Slovakia: Mucha - Durica, Zabavnik, Karhan, Weiss (Stoch 70), Sestak (Holosko 70), Hubocan, Salata, Hamsik, Jendrisek (Oravec 84), Kucka.
Rep Ireland: Given - St Ledger, Kilbane, O'Shea, Dunne, Whelan, Fahey (Keogh 71), McGeady, Green (Gibson 42), Long, Keane.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Russia	4	3	0	1	6	3	9
Rep Ireland	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Armenia	4	2	1	1	9	4	7
Slovakia	4	2	1	1	4	4	7
Macedonia	4	1	1	2	4	4	4
Andorra	4	0	0	4	1	11	0

Group C

Oct 8 - Belfast
Northern Ireland 0
Italy 0
Att: 15,150. **Ref:** Chapron (Fra)
Northern Ireland: Taylor - McAuley, J Evans, A Hughes, Craigan, Baird, Davis, McCann (C Evans 80), Feeney, Brunt (McGinn 71), Healy (Lafferty 66).
Italy: Viviano - Cassano, Bonucci, Chiellini, Criscito, De Rossi, Pirlo, Mauri (Marchisio 79), Pepe (Rossi 84), Borriello (Pazzini 74), Cassani.

Oct 8 - Belgrade
Serbia 1 (Zigic 60)
Estonia 3 (Kink 63, Vassiljev 73, Lukovic og 90+1)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 10,000. **Ref:** Layushkin (Rus)
Serbia: Stojkovic - Lomic, Kacar (Ninkovic 46), Vidic, Ivanovic, D Stankovic, Lukovic, Jovanovic (Z Tosic 46), Krasic, Zigic, Kuzmanovic (Lazovic 79).
Estonia: Pareiko - Rahn, Piiroja, Kruglov, Dmitrijev, S Puri (Purje 70), Kink (Saag 64), Zenjov (Vunk 87), Vassiljev, Klavan, Enar Jaager.

Oct 8 - Ljubljana
Slovenia 5 (Matavz 25, 36, 65, Novakovic pen 72, Dedic 84)
Faroe Islands 1 (Mouritsen 90+3)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 15,700. **Ref:** Todorov (Bul)
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko, Suler, Cesar, Koren, Birsa (Kirm 51), Novakovic (Dedic 73), Jokic, Radosavljevic (Bacinovic 59), Ilicic, Matavz.
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Rubeksen, Naes, Gregersen, a Bo, Justinus Hansen, Benjaminsen, Lokin (Elttor 41), Udsen (Jann Petersen 81), Holst (Mouritsen 81), Edmundsson.

Oct 12 - Tallinn
Estonia 0
Slovenia 1 (Sidorenkov og 67)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,722. **Ref:** Skjerven (Nor)
Estonia: Pareiko - Rahn (Palatu 55), Kruglov, Dmitrijev, S Puri (Purje 69), Kink (Zenjov 59), Vassiljev, Klavan, Enar Jaager, Saag, Sidorenkov.
Slovenia: S Handanovic - Brecko, Suler, Cesar, Koren, Birsa (Ljubijankic 90+1), Novakovic, Jokic, Radosavljevic, Ilicic (Kirm 67), Matavz (Dedic 53).

Oct 12 - Toftir
Faroe Islands 1 (Holst 60)
Northern Ireland 1 (Lafferty 76)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 1,921. **Ref:** Zimmermann (Swi)
Faroe Islands: Mikkelsen - Naes, E Jacobsen, Davidsen, Gregersen, Udsen (Jann Petersen 68), Benjaminsen, S Samuelsen (A Hansen 78), Holst (Justinus Hansen 85), Edmundsson, Elttor.
Northern Ireland: Taylor - McAuley, J Evans, Craigan, Feeney (Healy 50), Brunt, A Hughes, Baird, Davis, McGinn (C Evans 83), Lafferty.

Oct 12 - Genoa
Italy v Serbia
Ref: Thomson (Sco)
Match abandoned after 6 minutes because of crowd trouble
Italy: Viviano - Criscito, Chiellini, Mauri, Marchisio, Cassano, Palombo, Zambrotta, Pazzini, Pirlo, Bonucci.
Serbia: Brkic - Kacar, Ivanovic, Z Tosic, Mrdja, D Stankovic, Lukovic, Krasic, Subotic, Rajkovic, Kuzmanovic.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Italy	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Slovenia	4	2	1	1	7	3	7
Estonia	4	2	0	2	6	5	6
N Ireland	3	1	2	0	2	1	5
Serbia	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Faroe Islands	5	0	1	4	3	16	1

Group D

Oct 8 - Tirana
Albania 1 (Duro 45+2)
Bosnia-Herzegovina 1 (Ibisevic 21)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 11,300. **Ref:** Jakobsson (Ice)
Albania: Beqaj - Lila, Vangjeli, Dallku, Cana, Agolli, Bulku, Duro, Salihi (Hyka 85), Muzaka (Lika 65), Bogdani (Skela 46).
Bosnia-Herzegovina: Hasagic (Begovic 46) - Spahic, Mravac (Pandza 46), Rahimic, Pjanic, Misimovic, Dzeko (Ibricic 89), Ibisevic, Medunjanin, Lulic, Mujdza.

Oct 8 - Luxembourg
Luxembourg 0
Belarus 0
Att: 1,857. **Ref:** Stavrev (Mac)
Luxembourg: Joubert - Kintziger, Blaise, Hoffmann, Schnell, Peters, Laterza, Bettmer (Gerson 62), Payal (Kettenmeyer 77), C Leweck, Joachim (Da Mota 66).
Belarus: Zhevnov - Kulchy, Martynovich, Kalachev, Yurevich (Molosh 87), Tigorev (Putsilo 67), Omelyanchuk, Kornilenko, V Hleb (Rodionov 67), Kislyak, Shitov. *Sent off: Kornilenko 69min.*

Oct 9 - Paris
France 2 (Remy 83, Gourcuff 90+3)
Romania 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 79,299. **Ref:** Proenca (Por)
France: Lloris - Reveillere, Rami, Mexes, Clichy, M'Vila, A Diarra, Valbuena (Remy 68), Nasri (Gourcuff 74), Malouda, Benzema (Payet 86).

AUSTRALIA

Asian Cup warm-up

The Socceroos will meet fellow Asian Cup hopefuls the UAE in a friendly in Abu Dhabi on January 5, five days before their opening game in the continental competition.

BELARUS

Euro Under-21 line-up

A goal in extra time from Dinamo Minsk's Aleh Veratsila completed Belarus' comeback from a 2-0 first-leg deficit to win 3-2 on aggregate against Italy and booked their place in the finals of the European Under-21 Championship.

They will be joined in the finals (to be held from June 11 to 25) by hosts Denmark and first-time finalists Iceland, along with the Czech Republic, England, Spain, Switzerland and Ukraine.

CAMEROON

Lions held

The Indomitable Lions slipped to second place in their African Nations Cup qualifying group, behind leaders Senegal, after being held to a 1-1 draw at home by DR Congo. Javier Clemente's side fell behind to a goal from Diba Ilunga and had to rely on an own goal from Miala Nkulukutu to rescue a point.

Still picked...Cereceda

CHILE

Cereceda carries on playing

National coach Marcelo Bielsa chose to select Roberto Cereceda for the friendly game against the UAE, even though the full-back faces a possible two-year ban after it was revealed that he had tested positive for cocaine following a Sudamericana Cup tie for his club side, Colo Colo.

Romania: Pantilimon - Sapunaru, Rat, Tamas, Chivu, Radoi, Florescu, Cocis (Roman 87), Stancu, Zicu (Deac 46), D Niculae (Marica 63).

Oct 12 - Minsk
Belarus 2 (Rodionov 10, Krivets 77)
Albania 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Rasmussen (Den)
Belarus: Zhevnov - Kulchy (Krivets 75), Martynovich, Kalachev, Tigorev, Omelyanchuk, Putsilo (V Hleb 83), Kislyak, Shitov, Rodionov, Molosh (Yurevich 87).
Albania: Beqaj - Lila, Vangjeli, Dalliku, Agolli, Bulku (Muzaka 59), Duro, Skela (Kapllani 81), Teli, Lika (Bakaj 76), Salihi. *Sent off: Dalliku 90min.*

Oct 12 - Metz
France 2 (Benzema 22, Gourcuff 76)
Luxembourg 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 24,710. **Ref:** Jug (Sln)
France: Lloris - Reveillere, Rami, Mexes, Clichy, Gourcuff, A Diarra, Diaby, Malouda (Nasri 63), Hoarau (Remy 73), Benzema (Payet 63).
Luxembourg: Joubert - Blaise, Hoffmann, Schnell, Peters, Bettmer (Da Mota 84), Payal, C Leweck, Joachim (Kitenge 53), Laterza (Strasser 69), Mutsch. *Sent off: Peters 54min.*

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
France	4	3	0	1	6	1	9
Belarus	4	2	2	0	3	0	8
Albania	4	1	2	1	3	4	5
Bosnia-Herz	3	1	1	1	4	3	4
Romania	3	0	2	1	1	3	2
Luxembourg	4	0	1	3	0	6	1

Group E

Oct 8 - Budapest
Hungary 8 (Rudolf 11, 25, Szalai 18, 27, 48, Koman 60, Dzsudzsak 89, Gera pen 90+3)
San Marino 0
HT: 4-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Kaasik (Est)
Hungary: Kiraly - Vermes, Vanczak, Juhasz, Laczko, Elek (Vadocz 64), Dzsudzsak, Rudolf, Szalai (Priskin 64), Gera, Koman (Czvitkovics 79).
San Marino: A Simoncini - C Valentini, Vannucci, Bacciocchi (Albani 52), Della Valle, F Vitaioli, Berretti, F Bollini (Cervellini 84), Montagna, Manuel Marani, M Vitaioli (Bugli 77). *Sent off: C Valentini 90+2min.*

Oct 8 - Chisinau
Moldova 0
Holland 1 (Huntelaar 37)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 10,500. **Ref:** Meyer (Ger)
Moldova: Stanislav Namasco - Golovatenco, Epureanu, Racu, Cebotaru (V Andronic 69), Frunza (Bugaev 46), Bulgaru, Bordian, Doros (Josan 78), Suvorov, Bolohan.
Holland: Stekelenburg - Van der Wiel, Heitinga, Mathijsen, Pieters, Van Bommel, Van der Vaart, Afellay (Emanuelson 90), Sneijder, Kuyt, Huntelaar.

Oct 12 - Helsinki
Finland 1 (Forssell 86)
Hungary 2 (Szalai 50, Dzsudzsak 90+4)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 18,532. **Ref:** Kelly (Rlr)
Finland: Jaaskelainen - Pasanen, Moisander, Hyypia, Vayrynen, R Eremenko, Forssell, Sparv (Litmanen 72), Sjolund (Kuqi 81), Porokara (A Eremenko 71), Heikkinen.
Hungary: Kiraly - Vermes, Liptak, Juhasz, Laczko (Vanczak 86), Elek, Dzsudzsak, Rudolf (Koman 46), Szalai, Gera, Vadocz (Pinter 75).

Oct 12 - Amsterdam
Holland 4 (Huntelaar 4, 55, Afellay 37, 59)
Sweden 1 (Granqvist 69)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 50,000. **Ref:** Lannoy (Fra)
Holland: Stekelenburg - Van der Wiel, Heitinga, Mathijsen, Pieters, Van Bommel (Brama 72), Van der Vaart, Sneijder, Afellay, Kuyt (Lens 29), Huntelaar (Van Nistelrooy 84).
Sweden: Isaksson - Lustig, Majstorovic, Safari (Wendt 46), Toivonen (Berg 79), S Larsson, A Svensson, Ibrahimovic, Elmander, Granqvist, Wernbloom (Kallstrom 54).

Oct 12 - Serravalle
San Marino 0
Moldova 2 (Josan 20, Doros pen 86)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 600. **Ref:** Courtney (Nlr)
San Marino: A Simoncini - F Vitaioli, Vannucci, Mazza, D Simoncini, Bacciocchi, Cervellini, F Bollini, Montagna, Manuel Marani, M Vitaioli.
Moldova: Stanislav Namasco - Golovatenco, Boret, Epureanu, Cojocari (Savinov 81), V Andronic, Frunza, Josan (Zmeu 69), Bordian, Suvorov, Bugaev (Doros 62).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Holland	4	4	0	0	12	2	12
Hungary	4	3	0	1	12	4	9
Sweden	3	2	0	1	9	4	6
Moldova	4	2	0	2	5	3	6
Finland	3	0	0	3	2	6	0
San Marino	4	0	0	4	0	21	0

Group F

Oct 8 - Tbilisi
Georgia 1 (Siradze 90+1)
Malta 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Black (Nlr)
Georgia: Revishvili - Salukvadze, Asatiani, Kaladze, Amisulashvili, Khizanishvili, Gogua, Ananidze (Daushvili 73), Merebashvili (A Iashvili 46), Kobiashvili, Dvalishvili (Siradze 46).
Malta: Haber - Caruana, Mamo, Sciberras (R Fenech 69), A Agius, Briffa, M Mifsud, Cohen (Grima 90), S Bajada, Schembri (P Fenech 80), Pace.

Oct 8 - Piraeus
Greece 1 (Torosidis 58)
Latvia 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 13,500. **Ref:** Damato (Ita)
Greece: Sifakis - Tzavelas, Tziolis, Samaras, A Papadopoulos, Mitroglou (Salpigidis 77), Karagounis (Kafes 90), Torosidis, Ninis (Fetfatzidis 82), Papastathopoulos, Katsouranis.
Latvia: Vanins - Klava, Astafjevs, J Laizans (Pereplotkins 82), Ivanovs, Cauna, Verpakovskis, Rubins (Zigajevs 65), Gorkss, Zirnis, Rudnevs (Karlsons 73).

Oct 9 - Tel Aviv
Israel 1 (Shechter 81)
Croatia 2 (Kranjcar pen 36, 41)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 21,000. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Israel: Aouate - Ben Haim, Natcho, Vermouth, A Cohen, Barda (Rafaelov 56), Shechter, Keinan, Ziv, E Cohen (Golasa 69), T Cohen (Colautti 51).
Croatia: Runje - Strinic, Simunic, Corluka, Pranjic, Rakitic (Vukojevic 77), Eduardo (Mandzukic 57), Modric, Schildenfeld, Olic (Bilic 72), Kranjcar.

Oct 12 - Piraeus
Greece 2 (Salpigidis 22, Karagounis pen 63)
Israel 1 (Spiropoulos og 59)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 16,935. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
Greece: Sifakis - Spiropoulos, Samaras (Mitroglou 81), A Papadopoulos, Karagounis, Vyntra, Salpigidis (Maniatis 87), Kafes, Ninis (Fetfatzidis 15), Papastathopoulos, Katsouranis.
Israel: Aouate - Bondarv, Gershon, Natcho (Vermouth 63), A Cohen, Colautti (Barda 75), Shechter, Keinan, Rafaelov, T Cohen (E Cohen 69), Golasa.

Oct 12 - Riga
Latvia 1 (Cauna 90+1)
Georgia 1 (Siradze 74)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 4,330. **Ref:** De Sousa (Por)
Latvia: Vanins - Klava, Astafjevs, J Laizans (Grebis 82), Ivanovs, Cauna, Rubins, Gorkss, Zirnis, Rudnevs, Zigajevs (Pereplotkins 86).
Georgia: Revishvili - Lobzhanidze, Asatiani, Kaladze, Amisulashvili, Daushvili, Ananidze (Salukvadze 79), Kvirkvelia (Gogua 69), A Iashvili (Koshkadze 88), Kobiashvili, Siradze.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Greece	4	2	2	0	4	2	8
Croatia	3	2	1	0	5	1	7
Georgia	4	1	3	0	3	2	6
Israel	4	1	1	2	5	5	4
Latvia	4	1	1	2	3	5	4
Malta	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Group G

Oct 8 - Podgorica
Montenegro 1 (Vucinic 68)
Switzerland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 11,500. **Ref:** Iturralde Gonzalez (Spa)
Montenegro: M Bozovic - Basa, Jovanovic, S Vukcevic (Beciraj 84), Vucinic, Djalovic (Batak 90+2), Boskovic (Kascelan 46), Novakovic, Zverotic, Dzudovic, Savic.
Switzerland: Wolfli - Ziegler, Von Bergen, Schwegler, Inler, Frei, Streller (Derdiyok 67), Grichting, Stocker (Yakin 76), Sutter, Shaqiri (Barnetta 67).

Oct 8 - Cardiff
Wales 0
Bulgaria 1 (Popov 48)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 14,061. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Wales: Hennessey - Gunter, D Collins, Williams, J Collins, Ricketts, Edwards (Church 69), Vaughan, Morison (Robson-Kanu 82), Ledley (King 59), Bale. *Sent off: Gunter 90+3min.*
Bulgaria: Mihaylov - V Iliev (Vidanov 37), Zanev, Georgiev, Popov, Makriev (Yankov 87), Peev (Rangelov 72), I Ivanov, M Petrov, S Petrov, Bodurov.

Oct 12 - London
England 0
Montenegro 0
Att: 73,451. **Ref:** Grafe (Ger)
England: Hart - G Johnson, Ferdinand, Lescott, A Cole, A Johnson, Gerrard, Barry, A Young (Wright-Phillips 74), Rooney, Crouch (Davies 70).
Montenegro: M Bozovic - Savic, Dzudovic, Jovanovic, Basa, S Vukcevic, Zverotic, Novakovic (Kascelan 62), Pekovic, Boskovic (Beciraj 83), Djalovic (Delibasic 77).

Oct 12 - Basle
Switzerland 4 (Stocker 8, 89, Streller 21, Inler pen 82)
Wales 1 (Bale 13)
HT: 2-1. **Att:** 26,000. **Ref:** Hamer (Lux)
Switzerland: Benaglio (Wolfli 8) - Lichtsteiner, Ziegler, Von Bergen, Schwegler (Fernandes 90+1), Barnetta, Inler, Frei (Derdiyok 79), Streller, Grichting, Stocker.
Wales: Hennessey - Blake (Ribeiro 54), D Collins, J Collins, Crofts, Williams, Edwards (Morison 77), King, Church, Vaughan (MacDonald 89), Bale.

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Montenegro	4	3	1	0	3	0	10
England	3	2	1	0	7	1	7
Switzerland	3	1	0	2	5	5	3
Bulgaria	3	1	0	2	1	5	3
Wales	3	0	0	3	1	6	0

Group H

Oct 8 - Larnaca
Cyprus 1 (Okkas 58)
Norway 2 (J A Riise 2, Carew 42)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 8,500. **Ref:** Gumienny (Blg)
Cyprus: Georgallides - Charalambous (Efrem 86), Merkis (Christofi 81), Aloneftis, Okkas, Charalambides (Satsias 46), Konstantinou, Makrides, Dobrasinovic, Avraam, Poursaitidis.
Norway: Knudsen - Hogli, Waehler, Hangeland, J A Riise, B H Riise (Vaagan Moen 74), Hauger, Carew (Abdellaoue 83), Gamst Pedersen, Grindheim, Huseklepp (Ruud 80).

Oct 8 - Porto
Portugal 3 (Nani 29, 30, Cristiano Ronaldo 85)
Denmark 1 (Ricardo Carvalho og 79)
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 24,000. **Ref:** Braamhaar (Hol)
Portugal: Eduardo - Pepe, Joao Pereira, Fabio Coentrao, Ricardo Carvalho, Cristiano Ronaldo, Joao Moutinho, Raul Meireles, Nani (Silvestre Varela 88), Hugo Almeida (Helder Postiga 69), Carlos Martins (Tiago 75).
Denmark: T Sorensen (Lindegaard 32) - Christian Poulsen, Kjaer, Kroldrup, Silberbauer, Jacobsen, D Jensen (Eriksen 58), Kvist (Lovenkrands 72), Pedersen, Rommedahl, Vingaard.

Oct 12 - Copenhagen
Denmark 2 (M Rasmussen 48, Lorentzen 81)
Cyprus 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,544. **Ref:** Muniz Fernandez (Spa)
Denmark: Lindegaard - Christian Poulsen, Kjaer, Agger (Kroldrup 39), Jessen, Jacobsen, Krohn-Dehli (Eriksen 65), Lorentzen, Pedersen, Rommedahl, Junker (M Rasmussen 46).
Cyprus: Georgallides - Charalambous (Christou 28), Merkis, Aloneftis (Charalambides 55), Okkas, Konstantinou, Makrides, Satsias, Dobrasinovic, Avraam (Garpozis 63), Poursaitidis.

Oct 12 - Reykjavik
Iceland 1 (Helguson 17)
Portugal 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo 3, Raul Meireles 27, Helder Postiga 72)
HT: 1-2. **Att:** 9,755. **Ref:** Einwaller (Aut)
Iceland: Gunnleifsson - R Sigurdsson, B Saevarsson (V Gunnarsson 85), K Sigurdsson, I Sigurdsson (Adalsteinsson 85), Steinsson, O Skulason, Gudjohnsen, Helguson, Danielsson, Bjarnason (Thorvaldsson 68).
Portugal: Eduardo - Pepe, Joao Pereira, Fabio Coentrao, Ricardo Carvalho, Cristiano Ronaldo, Joao Moutinho, Raul Meireles, Nani (Danny 87), Hugo Almeida (Helder Postiga 65), Carlos Martins (Tiago 77).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Norway	3	3	0	0	5	2	9
Portugal	4	2	1	1	10	7	7
Denmark	3	2	0	1	4	3	6
Cyprus	3	0	1	2	5	8	1
Iceland	3	0	0	3	2	6	0

EGYPT

Holders facing exit

The African champions lost 1-0 to Niger in the African Nations Cup qualifiers and face missing out on a place in the finals for the first time since 1982.

GERMANY

Aussie test

Australia will provide the opposition for a friendly in Monchengladbach on March 29, three days before Germany face Kazakhstan in a Euro 2012 qualifier in Kaiserslautern.

The two teams met in the World Cup during the summer, with Joachim Low's side hammering the Socceroos 4-0.

"The meeting will give us the chance to look at some younger players from the Bundesliga and test them at international level," said Low.

JORDAN

Perfect send off

In a game to mark the retirement of their former captain Faisal Ibrahim, Jordan beat Asian champions Iraq 4-1.

The home side took the lead through Ahmad Al Zugheir and Amer Deeb, before Nashat Akram pulled one back for Iraq, who were playing their first game under new German coach Wolfgang Sidka. Hassouneh Al

Victorious...Kuwait celebrate winning the WAFF Championship

Group I

Oct 8 - Prague
Czech Republic 1 (Hubnik 69)
Scotland 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,000. **Ref:** Bebek (Cro)
Czech Republic: Cech - Suchy, M Kadlec, Hubnik, Necid (Holek 84), Polak, Magera (Bednar 59), Rosicky, Pospech, Plasil (Rajnoch 90+4), Hubschman.
Scotland: McGregor - Hutton, Whittaker, McManus, Weir, G Caldwell (K Miller 76), D Fletcher, Morrison (Robson 84), Dorrans, Mackie (Iwelumo 76), Naismith.

Oct 8 - Salamanca
Spain 3 (Llorente 47, 56, Silva 79)
Lithuania 1 (Sernas 54)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 17,000. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
Spain: Casillas - Sergio Ramos (Arbeloa 82), Puyol, Pique, Capdevila, Busquets, Cazorla, Iniesta, Silva, Llorente (Aduriz 77), Villa (Pablo 76).
Lithuania: Karcemarskas - Semberas, Radavicius, Kijanskas, Skerla, Panka, E Cesnauskis (Poskus 85), Danilevicius (Ivaskevicius 82), Sernas, Mikoliunas (D Cesnauskis 59), Stankevicius.

Oct 12 - Vaduz
Liechtenstein 0
Czech Republic 2 (Necid 12, V Kadlec 29)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 2,555. **Ref:** Sukhina (Rus)
Liechtenstein: Jehle - Michael Stocklasa, Rechsteiner, Oehri, Martin Stocklasa, T Beck (N Hasler 66), M Frick, Burgmeier, Erne (Hanselmann 78), Wieser (R Buchel 84), Polverino.
Czech Republic: Cech - Suchy, M Kadlec, Hubnik, Necid (Petrzela 89), Polak (Stajner 59), Rosicky, Pospech, Plasil, V Kadlec (Bednar 64), Hubschman.

Oct 12 - Glasgow
Scotland 2 (Naismith 58, Pique og 66)
Spain 3 (Villa pen 44, Iniesta 55, Llorente 79)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 51,322. **Ref:** Busacca (Swi)
Scotland: McGregor - Bardsley, Whittaker, McManus, Weir, McCulloch (Adam 46), D Fletcher, Dorrans (Mackie 80), Morrison (Maloney 88), K Miller, Naismith. *Sent off: Whittaker 89min.*
Spain: Casillas - Sergio Ramos, Puyol, Pique, Capdevila, Xabi Alonso, Busquets (Marchena 90), Iniesta, Cazorla (Pablo 70), Villa, Silva (Llorente 76).

EURO 2012 QUALIFIERS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Spain	3	3	0	0	10	3	9
Czech Rep	3	2	0	1	3	1	6
Scotland	4	1	1	2	4	5	4
Lithuania	3	1	1	1	2	3	4
Liechtenstein	3	0	0	3	1	8	0

The nine group winners and the runner-up with the best record (against the teams finishing 1st, 3rd, 4th and 5th in the respective groups) qualify automatically for the finals. The eight remaining runners-up will be drawn in four head-to-head, two-leg play-offs, the winners of which will also qualify for the finals. Co-hosts Poland and Ukraine qualify automatically

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS

Group A

Oct 9 - Bamako
Mali 2 (A Traore 3, Teekloh og 53)
Liberia 1 (Weeks 43)
HT: 1-1

Oct 10 - Harare
Zimbabwe 0
Cape Verde Islands 0

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cape Verde	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Mali	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Zimbabwe	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Liberia	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group B

Oct 10 - Conakry
Guinea 1 (Constant 8)
Nigeria 0
HT: 1-0
Nigeria: Enyeama - Yobo, Taiwo, Adeleye, Stephen (Owoeri 60), Eneramo (Musa 66), Martins, Ayila, K Uche, Odiah, Nsofor.

Oct 10 - Antananarivo
Madagascar 0
Ethiopia 1 (Lemessa 62)
HT: 0-0

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Guinea	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Nigeria	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Ethiopia	2	1	0	1	2	4	3
Madagascar	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Group C

Oct 9 - Moroni
Comoros 0
Mozambique 1 (Machaisse 90+1)
HT: 0-0

Oct 10 - Tripoli
Libya 1 (Saad 36)
Zambia 0
HT: 1-0

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Mozambique	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Libya	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Zambia	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Comoros	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Group D

Oct 9 - Dar es Salaam
Tanzania 0
Morocco 1 (El Hamdaoui 43)
HT: 0-1

Oct 10 - Bangui
Central African Republic 2 (Dagoulou 82, Momi 86)
Algeria 0
HT: 0-0
Algeria: M'Bolhi - Yahia, Bougherra, Medjani, Belhadj, Abdoun, Yebda (Lemmouchia 72), Lacen, Mesbah (Aissa 77), Ghezzal (Ziaya 77), Djebbour.

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cent Af Rep	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Morocco	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Tanzania	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Algeria	2	0	1	1	1	3	1

Group E

Oct 9 - Garoua
Cameroon 1 (Nkulukuta og 54)
DR Congo 1 (D Ilunga 36)
HT: 0-1
Cameroon: N'Dy Assembe - N'Koulou, Bassong, Binya, Bedimo, Assou-Ekotto (Nong 70), Enoh, Chedjou, Ndjeng (Mandjeck 83), Aboubakar, Eto'o.

Oct 9 - Dakar
Senegal 7 (P D Cisse 7, 37, 75, Niang 22, 61, Sow 45+2, Estazie og 89)
Mauritius 0
HT: 4-0
Senegal: K Ndiaye - Daf, Drame (Faty 66), Diakhate, Mangane, Ndaw, Tavares, N Ndiaye (M B Diouf 53), Sow, Niang, P D Cisse (D Ba 77).

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Senegal	2	2	0	0	11	2	6
Cameroon	2	1	1	0	4	2	4
DR Congo	2	0	1	1	3	5	1
Mauritius	2	0	0	2	1	10	0

Group F

Oct 9 - Ouagadougou
Burkina Faso 3 (Dagano 16, Balima 57, Kabore 69)
Gambia 1 (Jawo 74)
HT: 1-0

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Burkina Faso	1	1	0	0	3	1	3
Gambia	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Namibia	1	0	0	1	1	3	0

Mauritania withdrew before 1st round of games

Group G

Oct 10 - Niamey
Niger 1 (Maazou 34)
Egypt 0
HT: 1-0
Egypt: El Hadary - Fathalla, Gomaa, Abdul Fadhil, Al Muhammadi, Fathi, Ghaly (Soliman), Abdel Shafy, Aboutraika, Zaki (Mekki), Ali (Fadl).

Oct 10 - Freetown
Sierra Leone 0
South Africa 0
South Africa: Khune - Ngcongca, Mokoena, Khumalo, Masilela, Sibaya, Khuboni, Modise, Tshabalala (Ngcobo), Parker (Gould), Mphela (Letsholonyane).

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
South Africa	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Niger	2	1	0	1	1	2	3
Sierra Leone	2	0	2	0	1	1	2
Egypt	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Group H

Oct 9 - Bujumbura
Burundi 0
Ivory Coast 1 (Romaric 33)
HT: 0-1

Oct 9 - Kigali
Rwanda 0
Benin 3 (S Tchomogo 68, Omotoyossi 81, Sessegnon 88)
HT: 0-0

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ivory Coast	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Benin	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Burundi	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Rwanda	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

Group I

Oct 10 - Brazzaville
Congo 3 (Mouko pen 20, Sembolo 34, 73)
Swaziland 1 (Daren 36)
HT: 2-1

Oct 10 - Kumasi
Ghana 0
Sudan 0
Ghana: Kingson - Paintsil, Sarpei, John Mensah, Vorsah, Annan, J Ayew (Tagoe 56), Kumordzi (Agyemang-Badu 71), Gyan, Asamoah, A Ayew (Clottey 76). *Sent off: Gyan 80min.*

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP I

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ghana	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Sudan	2	1	1	0	2	0	4
Congo	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Swaziland	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

Group J

Oct 9 - Luanda
Angola 1 (Gilberto pen 22)
Guinea-Bissau 0
HT: 1-0

Oct 9 - Nairobi
Kenya 0
Uganda 0

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP J

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Uganda	2	1	1	0	3	0	4
Guinea-Bissau	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
Angola	2	1	0	1	1	3	3
Kenya	2	0	1	1	0	1	1

Group K

Oct 9 - Blantyre
Malawi 6 (Zakazaka 14, Kanyenda 21, 56, C Msowoya 68, 72, Ng'ambi 80)
Chad 2 (Ndouassel 27, Mbaiam 76)
HT: 2-1

Oct 10 - Lome
Togo 1 (Sapol 40)
Tunisia 2 (Jemaa 38, Chermiti 83)
HT: 1-1
Tunisia: Naouara - Boussaidi, Saidi, Yahia, Jemal, Traoui, Korbi, Ben Khalfallah (Chermiti), Dhaouadi (Darragi), Allagui (Ben Yahia), Jemaa.

2012 AFRICAN NATIONS CUP QUALS – GROUP K

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Botswana	4	3	1	0	5	2	10
Tunisia	4	2	1	1	7	5	7
Malawi	4	1	3	0	10	6	6
Togo	4	0	2	2	5	7	2
Chad	4	0	1	3	5	12	1

The 11 group winners and the three runners-up with the best record qualify for the finals. Co-hosts Equatorial Guinea and Gabon qualify automatically

Sheikh and Deeb, with his second of the game, completed the scoring on a comfortable night for Jordan.

KUWAIT

WAFF champions

Goals from Abdulaziz Al Mishaan and Yousef Al Sulaiman saw Kuwait beat defending champions Iran 2-1 in the Final of the West Asian Football Federation Championship. Milad Meydavoudi scored a late consolation for Iran.

MEXICO

Party hangover

Arsenal's Carlos Vela and Efrain Juarez of Celtic were handed six-month international bans by the Mexican FA, with 11 other players fined, for allegedly throwing a party at a team hotel following the friendly against Colombia in September. Mexico won the game in Monterrey 1-0.

Banned...Vela (right)

MOZAMBIQUE

Stadium opening

The Mambas will play Tanzania in December to open the new national stadium in Maputo. The 42,000 capacity Estadio do Zimpeto will host the 2011 All-Africa Games.

NIGERIA

Constant decider

After being temporarily suspended from all international competition by FIFA, following government interference in the sport, Nigeria's African Nations Cup game away to Guinea eventually went ahead.

However, the Super Eagles were downed by a solitary goal from Kevin Constant.

WAFF CHAMPIONSHIP

(West Asian Football Federation)

In Amman, Jordan

Group A

Sep 24
Iran 3 (Aghily 39, 41, Oladi 47)
Bahrain 0
HT: 2-0
Iran: Rahmati - Nosrati (Omranzadeh 75), Aghily, J Hosseini, Hajsafy, Teymourian (M Nouri 65), P Nouri (Meydavoudi 75), K Heydari, Mobali, Zanidpour, Oladi.

Sep 26
Bahrain 2 (Abdullatif 63, 67)
Oman 0
HT: 0-0

Sep 28
Oman 2 (Hadid 40, Abdulkarim 44)
Iran 2 (Meydavoudi 17, Teymourian 53)
HT: 2-1
Iran: Mirzapour - K Heydari, Aghily (Teymourian 23), J Hosseini, Beikzadeh, Ashoubi (Mobali 84), Omranzadeh, Meydavoudi, M Nouri, Zanidpour, Ansarifard (Oladi 55). *Sent off: M Nouri 51min.*

WAFF CHAMPIONSHIP – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iran	2	1	1	0	5	2	4
Bahrain	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Oman	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Group B

Sep 24
Jordan 1 (Deeb 13)
Syria 1 (Al Zeno 82)
HT: 1-0

Sep 26
Syria 1 (Al Omair 83)
Kuwait 2 (Rashed 53, Al Mosawi 71)
HT: 0-0

Sep 28
Kuwait 2 (Al Sulaiman 60, Abdulaziz 78)
Jordan 2 (Abdel Fattah 38, 51)
HT: 0-1

WAFF CHAMPIONSHIP – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kuwait	2	1	1	0	4	3	4
Jordan	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Syria	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Group C

Sep 25
Iraq 2 (Samal 49, Hawar 72)
Yemen 1 (Al Nono 10)
HT: 0-1

Sep 27
Yemen 3 (Al Nono pen 43, 83, Al Asbahi 63)
Palestine 1 (Al Obaid 79)
HT: 1-0
Sent off: Al Bohdari 45min, Wadi 89min (both Palestine)

Sep 29
Palestine 0
Iraq 3 (Mustafa 15, 76, Nashat pen 85)
HT: 0-1
Sent off: Deab (Palestine) 85min

WAFF CHAMPIONSHIP – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Iraq	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Yemen	2	1	0	1	4	3	3
Palestine	2	0	0	2	1	6	0

The three group winners and the runner-up with the best record qualified for the semi-finals

Semi-finals

Oct 1
Iran 2 (J Hosseini 53, Gholami 86)
Iraq 1 (Mustafa 72)
HT: 0-0
Sent off: Mohammed A Karim (Iraq) 76min
Iran: Rahmati - Nosrati, J Hosseini, Omranzadeh, Hajsafy, Teymourian, P Nouri, K Heydari, Meydavoudi (Zanidpour 46), Mobali, Oladi (Gholami 74).

Oct 1
Kuwait 1 (Al Rashidi 73)
Yemen 1 (Al Nono 55)
HT: 0-0. *No extra-time*
Kuwait 4-3 on pens

Final

Oct 2
Iran 1 (Meydavoudi 90+5)
Kuwait 2 (Al Mishaan 10, Al Sulaiman 45)
HT: 0-2
Iran: Rahmati - Nosrati, Omranzadeh (Oladi 60), J Hosseini, Hajsafy, Teymourian, P Nouri, K Heydari, Zanidpour, Mobali (Meydavoudi 60), Gholami.

CARIBBEAN CHAMPIONSHIP

1st round

Group A

In Bayamon, Puerto Rico

Oct 2
Puerto Rico 3 (Hansen 28, Megaloudis 32, 81)
Anguilla 1 (A Richardson pen 52)
HT: 2-0
Sent off: Richardson (Puerto Rico) 45min; J Brown (Anguilla) 47min

Oct 2
Saint-Martin 1 (Virgile 55)
Cayman Islands 1 (P Brown pen 24)
HT: 0-1

Oct 4
Cayman Islands 4 (M Ebanks pen 45+2, 48, Wood 56, P Brown 58)
Anguilla 1 (Brooks 33)
HT: 1-1

Oct 4
Puerto Rico 2 (Krause 26, Arrieta 80)
Saint-Martin 0
HT: 1-0

Oct 6
Anguilla 2 (Brooks 19, Rodgers 38)
Saint-Martin 1 (Virgile 15)
HT: 2-1

Oct 6
Puerto Rico 2 (Megaloudis 26, Figueroa 89)
Cayman Islands 0
HT: 1-0
Sent off: Carter (Cayman Islands) 72min

CARIBBEAN CH'SHIP – 1ST RND: GP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Puerto Rico	3	3	0	0	7	1	9
Cayman Is	3	1	1	1	5	4	4
Anguilla	3	1	0	2	4	8	3
Saint-Martin	3	0	1	2	2	5	1

Group B

In Kingstown, Barbados

Oct 6
Barbados 1 (J Williams 14)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (G Isaac 62)
HT: 1-0

Oct 6
St Vincent & The Grenadines 7 (S Samuel pen 25, 26, 68, Damol Francis 55, Stewart 65, Balcombe 71, Snagg 88)
Montserrat 0
HT: 2-0
Sent off: Remy (Montserrat) 72min

Oct 8
Montserrat 0
Barbados 5 (N Forde 18, 82, Riviere Williams 37, Adamson 53, Atkins 90)
HT: 0-2

Oct 8
St Vincent & The Grenadines 1 (James 73)
St Kitts & Nevis 1 (J Francis 40)
HT: 0-1

Oct 10
St Kitts & Nevis 4 (Saddler 18, 32, Gumbs 22, Lake 90)
Montserrat 0
HT: 3-0

Oct 10
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0
Barbados 0
Sent off: E George 69min, James 89min (both St Vincent & The Grenadines); N Forde 89min, Parris 90min, Rouse 90min (all Barbados)

CARIBBEAN CH'SHIP – 1ST RND: GP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
St Kitts & N*	3	1	2	0	6	2	5
St Vincent & G*	3	1	2	0	8	1	5
Barbados*	3	1	2	0	6	1	5
Montserrat	3	0	0	3	0	16	0

**Group positions decided on head-to-head record, then overall goal difference*

The four 1st round group winners and the two runners-up with the best record qualify for the next round

COUPE DE L'OUTRE-MER

(Contested by the national teams of current and former French overseas territories)

Staged in France

No drawn games
4pts awarded for a win in 90mins (W in table);
2pts awarded for a win on penalties (Wp in table);
1pt awarded for a loss on penalties (Lp in table)

Group A

Sep 22 - Saint-Gratien
Reunion 11 (Fontaine 25, Gastrin 31, N'Gongue 57, Farro 59, 88, Mounoussamy 60, Basquaise 65, 76, Visnelda 74, 89, 90+2)
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 0
HT: 2-0

Sep 22 - Saint-Gratien
French Guiana 2 (Tuinfort 47, 85)
Mayotte 2 (Filomar 25, Ramia 33)
HT: 0-2
Mayotte 4-2 on pens

Sep 25 - Gennevilliers
Mayotte 1 (Bamana 5)
Reunion 2 (Elcaman 48, Boulard 54)
HT: 1-0

Sep 25 - Gennevilliers
French Guiana 7 (Yemounou 10, 57, Evens 25, Nalie 27, 90, Habran 67, 83)
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 0
HT: 3-0

Sep 28 - Villemomble
French Guiana 0
Reunion 1 (Gastrin 5)
HT: 0-1

Sep 28 - Franconville
Mayotte 10 (N'Daka 14, 47, 72, 84, Antoissi pen 25, 59, 81, Ibrahim 40, 44, Bourahima 67)
Saint-Pierre & Miquelon 0
HT: 4-0

COUPE DE L'OUTRE-MER – GROUP A

	P	W	Wp/Lp	L	F	A	Pts
Reunion	3	3	0/0	0	14	1	12
Mayotte	3	1	1/0	1	13	4	6
French Guiana	3	1	0/1	1	9	3	5
St-Pierre & M	3	0	0/0	3	0	28	0

Group B

Sep 23 - Bry-sur-Marne
Martinique 4 (Audel 44, Percin 48, 82, Parsemain 60)
Tahiti 1 (Li Fung-kee 27)
HT: 1-1

Sep 23 - Bry-sur-Marne
Guadeloupe 1 (Lambourde 74)
New Caledonia 1 (M Hmae 68)
HT: 0-0
New Caledonia 6-5 on pens

Sep 26 - Viry-Chatillon
New Caledonia 0
Martinique 4 (Percin 41, 90+2, Gustan 51, Parsemain 57)
HT: 0-1

Sep 26 - Viry-Chatillon
Guadeloupe 1 (Gotin 67)
Tahiti 1 (L Tehau 57)
HT: 0-0
Tahiti 4-2 on pens

PANAMA

Dely Valdes takes job

Interim coach Julio Dely Valdes has signed a 10-month contract to lead the national team that will take him through to the CONCACAF Gold Cup in June 2011.

An assistant with Malaga in Spain for the past two seasons, Dely Valdes is the country's record international scorer with 22 goals.

New boss...Dely Valdes

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Nations Cup dates

Giovanni Trapattoni's side will meet Wales in the opening game of the first Nations Cup tournament, in Dublin on February 8.

The two other competing countries, Northern Ireland and Scotland, meet a day later. Fixtures resume on May 23, with the final four games taking place over five days.

The Republic of Ireland will also face World Cup semi-finalists Uruguay in a friendly at the Aviva Stadium in Dublin on March 29, three days after taking on Macedonia in a Euro 2012 qualifier at the same venue.

"After playing Brazil and Argentina this year, we now welcome another strong South American side," said Trapattoni.

Nations Cup men...(left to right) Scotland boss Craig Levein, Nigel Worthington of Northern Ireland and Republic of Ireland's Giovanni Trapattoni

Sep 29 - Le Plessis-Trevise
Guadeloupe 2 (Lambourde 20, D Mocka 90+3)
Martinique 0
HT: 1-0

Sep 29 - Longjumeau
New Caledonia 1 (Watrone 6)
Tahiti 1 (William 30)
HT: 1-1
Tahiti 5-3 on pens

COUPE DE L'OUTRE-MER – GROUP B

	P	W	Wo/Lp	L	F	A	Pts
Martinique	3	2	0/0	1	8	3	8
Guadeloupe	3	1	0/2	0	4	2	6
Tahiti	3	0	2/0	1	3	6	4
New Caledonia	3	0	1/1	1	2	6	3

The group winners qualified for the Final; the runners-up qualified for the third-place play-off

Third-place play-off

Oct 1 - Saint-Ouen
Mayotte 0
Guadeloupe 4 (Gotin 11, 24, 47, Gomez 25)
HT: 0-3

Final

Oct 2 - Creteil
Reunion 0
Martinique 0
Aet. **Ref:** Cailleux (Fra)
Martinique 5-3 on pens
Reunion: Ledoyen - Lionel, Bador, Boulard, Nativel, N'Gongue, Elcaman, Mounoussamy, Hubert, Gastrin, Fontaine (Basquaise 86).
Martinique: Heurlie - Deluge, Suedile, Cretinoir, Herelle, Audel, Goron (Fondelot 67; Honore 112), Gustan, Reuperne, Percin, Parsemain.

ANTIGUA FRIENDLY TOURNAMENT

In St John's, Antigua

Sep 19
Antigua & Barbuda 0
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Jorsling 70)
HT: 0-0
Trinidad & Tobago: J M Williams - J Jones, Cyrus, Cupid, K Williams, Carter (Leon 68), Hector, Clarence (Marcano 46), Peltier (Guerra 62), Wolfe, Jorsling (Gay 72).

Sep 21
Trinidad & Tobago 3 (Jorsling 22, Gay 53, Hector 86)
St Lucia 0
HT: 1-0
Trinidad & Tobago: J M Williams - J Jones (A Edwards 77), Cyrus, Cupid (Peltier 46; Theobald 77), K Williams, Leon, Wolfe (Stewart 70), Hector, Carter (Cummings 54), Gay (Marcano 65), Jorsling.

Sep 23
Antigua & Barbuda 5 (Burton 17, 45, Byers 48, 76, J Thomas 75)
St Lucia 0
HT: 2-0

ANTIGUA FRIENDLY TOURNAMENT – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Trinidad & Tob	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Antigua & Bar	2	1	0	1	5	1	3
St Lucia	2	0	0	2	0	8	0

LONG TENG CUP

In Kaohsiung, Taiwan

Oct 9
Hong Kong U-23 4 (Chan Man-fai 5, Xu Deshuai 31, Lo Kwan-yee 84, Ju Yingzhi 90+1)
Philippines 2 (P Younghusband pen 58, 69)
HT: 2-0

Oct 9
Taiwan 7 (Lin Cheng-yi 4, Lo Chih-en 43, Lo Chih-an 45, Chen Po-hao 46, 77, Chang Han 55, Chen Po-liang 67)
Macau 1 (Leong Ka-hang 82)
HT: 3-0

Oct 10
Macau 0
Hong Kong U-23 4 (Tam Lok-hin 38, Xu Deshuai 52, Lam Hok-hei 72, 74)
HT: 0-1

Oct 10
Taiwan 1 (Lo Chih-en 48)
Philippines 1 (Ferrer 90+3)
HT: 0-0

Oct 12
Philippines 5 (Caligdong 6, Araneta 13, 54, 90, J Younghusband 48)
Macau 0
HT: 2-0

Oct 12
Taiwan 1 (Lo Chih-an 40)
Hong Kong U-23 1 (Lo Kwan-yee pen 75)
HT: 1-0

LONG TENG CUP – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HK U-23	3	2	1	0	9	3	7
Taiwan	3	1	2	0	9	3	5
Philippines	3	1	1	1	8	5	4
Macau	3	0	0	3	1	16	0

FRIENDLIES

Saturday, September 11
Sep 11 - Cayenne
French Guiana 1 (Tuinfort 49)
Surinam 2 (Christoph 52, Sedney 89)
HT: 0-0

Thursday, September 16
Sep 16 - Amman
Jordan 4 (Al Zugheir 6, Deeb 19, 73, Al Sheikh 69)
Iraq 1 (Nashat 59)
HT: 2-0

Friday, September 17
Sep 17 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0
Grenada 1 (S Rennie 24)
HT: 0-1

Saturday, September 18
Sep 18 - Saint-Martin
British Virgin Islands 2 (Mitchell 5, 8)
Anguilla 1
HT: 2-1

Sep 18 - Sana'a
Yemen 0
Zambia 1 (Kalaba 15)
HT: 0-1

Sunday, September 19
Sep 19 - Zarqa
Jordan 2 (Keshek 22, Deeb 52)
Bahrain 0
HT: 1-0

Sep 19 - Saint-Martin
Saint-Martin 3
British Virgin Islands 1
Sent off: Butler (British Virgin Islands) 55min

Sep 19 - Kingstown
St Vincent & The Grenadines 0
Grenada 0

Tuesday, September 21
Sep 21 - As-Salt, Jordan
Iraq 3 (Samal 62, Nashat 67, Ahmad 69)
Oman 2 (Rabia 42, Hadid 88)
HT: 0-1

Friday, September 24
Sep 24 - Hanoi
Vietnam 0
North Korea 0

Saturday, September 25
Sep 25 - Bridgetown
Barbados 0
Dominica 2 (K Benjamin 24, Joseph 38)
HT: 0-2

Sunday, September 26
Sep 26 - Bridgetown
Barbados 1 (Harte 21)
Dominica 3 (K Benjamin 35, 45, 74)
HT: 1-2

Sep 26 - Providence
Guyana 1 (Peters 43)
Trinidad & Tobago 1 (Jorsling 36)
HT: 1-1
Trinidad & Tobago: J M Williams - K Williams, J Jones, Cyrus, Peltier (Cummings 82), Hector (Theobald 78), Carter (Guerra 64), Jorsling, Wolfe, Gay (Marcano 69), Leon.

Monday, October 4
Oct 4 - Pune
India 0
Hong Kong 1 (Li Haiqiang 80)
HT: 0-0

Thursday, October 7
Oct 7 - Santa Cruz
Bolivia 1 (Martins 53)
Venezuela 3 (Chourio 9, 37, Vizcarrondo 29)
HT: 0-3. **Att:** 18,000. **Ref:** Chaibou (Nig)
Bolivia: Lampe (D Vaca 46) - Hoyos, Raldes, L Gutierrez, I Garcia (Bejarano 24), R Garcia (Chavez 77), Campos, J Vaca, Veizaga (Lima 46), Galindo (Saucedo 46), Martins (Castillo 83).
Venezuela: Sanhouse - G Cichero, Vizcarrondo, Perozo, Lucena, Seijas (Gomez 73), Arango (F Flores 86), Rincon, C Gonzalez (Rosales 64), Moreno (Blanco 70), Chourio (Renteria 80).

Oct 7 - Abu Dhabi, UAE
Iran 0
Brazil 3 (Daniel Alves 14, Alexandre Pato 69, Nilmar 90+2)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 20,000
Iran: Rahmati - P Nouri (Meydavoudi 86), J Hosseini, K Heydari, Nosrati, Teymourian, Nekounam, Shojaei (Bagheri 73), Hajsafy, Zanidpour (Mobali 59), Gholami (Ansarifard 54).
Brazil: Victor - Daniel Alves, Thiago Silva (Rever 78), David Luiz, Andre Santos, Lucas (Wesley 81), Ramires (Sandro 66), Carlos Eduardo (Giuliano 60), Robinho (Nilmar 66), Coutinho (Elias 46), Alexandre Pato.

Friday, October 8
Oct 8 - Kunming
China 2 (Zhao Peng 38, Zhang Linpeng pen 51)
Syria 1 (Al Agha 61)
HT: 1-0
Sent off: Jenyat (Syria) 50min
China: Yang Zhi - Zhao Peng, Zhou Haibin, Han Peng (Gao Lin), Deng Zhuoxiang (Chen Xing), Yan Xiangchuang (Qu Bo), Zhang Linpeng, Yang Hao, Rong Hao (Bai Lei), Yu Hai, Du Wei (Feng Xiaoting).

Oct 8 - Harrison, USA
Colombia 1 (Falcao 88)
Ecuador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,000. **Ref:** Chapin (USA)
Colombia: Ospina - Zuniga, L Perea, Yepes, Armero, J Restrepo, Ibarbo (Quintero 59), Viafara, G Moreno (Jhon Valencia 88), Ramos (Falcao 77), Gutierrez (Cuadrado 68).
Ecuador: Banguera - Reasco, Guagua, I Mina, W Ayovi, Quiroz, Noboa, Arroyo (Suarez 85; Paredes 90), J Guerron (Rojas 64), Benitez (Saritama 74), J Ayovi.

Oct 8 - Pune
India 3 (Chhetri 25, 49, 72)
Vietnam 1 (Vu Nhu Thanh pen 62)
HT: 1-0

Oct 8 - Jakarta
Indonesia 1 (Boaz 16)
Uruguay 7 (Cavani 34, 80, 83, Suarez 43, 54, pen 68, Eguren 56)
HT: 1-2
Uruguay: Castillo - Fucile (Ramirez 46), Lugano (Scotti 46), Victorino (Caceres 60), A Pereira, M Pereira, Perez (Eguren 46), Gargano (A Gonzalez 64), C Rodriguez (S Fernandez 60), Suarez, Cavani.

Oct 8 - Saitama
Japan 1 (Okazaki 19)
Argentina 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 57,735. **Ref:** Gil (Pol)
Japan: Kawashima (Nishikawa 85) - Kurihara, Nagatomo, Uchida, Endo (Abe 71), Konno, Hasebe, Okazaki (Sekiguchi 71), Honda, Morimoto (Maeda 65), Kagawa (K Nakamura 77).
Argentina: Romero - Burdisso (Lavezzi 78), Demichelis, G Milito, Heinze, Mascherano, Cambiasso (Bolatti 44; Di Maria 84), D'Alessandro (Pastore 59), Tevez, Messi, D Milito (Higuain 33).

Oct 8 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 1 (Ajeb 66)
Bahrain 3 (Abdullatif 9, Aalsh 47, Isa 51)
HT: 0-1

Oct 8 - Seeb
Oman 1 (Rabia 9)
Gabon 0
HT: 1-0

Oct 8 - Panama City
Panama 1 (B Perez 61)
El Salvador 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 15,000. **Ref:** Ruiz (Col)
Panama: Mejia - R Torres, G Gomez (Solis 90), B Perez (Aguilar 71), Barahona (Escobar 58), Cooper (Quintero 78), Machado, L Henriquez, Tejada (G Torres 89), A Henriquez, Baloy.

SYRIA

Asian Cup coach

Ratomir Dujkovic, who quit as the coach of Serbia Under-21s in August, will lead Syria in January's Asian Cup.

The Serb, who has past international experience in charge of Venezuela, Myanmar, Rwanda, Ghana and China Under-23s, has signed a three-and-a-half-month contract.

URUGUAY

Two triples

Luis Suarez and Edinson Cavani both scored hat-tricks as *La Celeste* – who were without Diego Forlan – came from a goal down to beat Indonesia 7-1 in a friendly.

USA

Jones' wait over

A year after getting clearance from FIFA to change his footballing allegiance, Schalke's Germany-born midfielder Jermaine Jones – who had previously played in three friendlies for the country of his birth – finally made his international debut for the USA as they twice let slip a lead to draw 2-2 with Poland in Chicago.

Jozy Altidore and Oguchi Onyewu were on target for the US, with Adam Matuszczyk and Jakub Blaszczykowski replying for the visitors.

Debut...Jones (left)

ZAMBIA

Taking charge

Tom Saintfiet has been named as the country's new national coach. The Belgian, who had been coaching Namibia, will be assisted by former caretaker boss Norman Mapeza and Madinda Ndlovu.

El Salvador: Portillo (H Hernandez 67) - Henriquez, Salazar, Marvin Gonzalez, R Sanchez (D Alas 71), Turcios (Sosa 78), J Alas, R Hernandez, Burgos (Blanco 46), Flores (Martin 83), Romero (E Sanchez 88).

Oct 8 - Lima
Peru 2 (Ramirez 3, Rengifo 6)
Costa Rica 0
HT: 2-0. **Ref:** Ponce (Ecu)
Peru: Libman - Guizasola (Rivas 57), Zambrano (Galliquio 69), Ramos, Vilchez, Farfan, Ballon (R Torres 68), Ramirez (De la Haza 80), Manco (Advincula 57), Chavez (Tragodara 57), Rengifo.
Costa Rica: Pemberton - G Gonzalez, Meneses (Monge 38), Badilla, Oviedo, Herrera, Barrantes, Arias (Russell 60), Acosta (Guzman 46), Mora (Smith 83), Alfaro (J Martinez 71).

Oct 8 - Kiev
Ukraine 2 (Milevskyi 59, Tymoshchuk 80)
Canada 2 (Jackson 12, Hutchinson 29)
HT: 0-2
Ukraine: Pyatov - Kucher, Mandzyuk, Fedetskyi, Romanchuk, Rotan (Aliev 46), Hai (Husiev 46), Kulakov (Tymoshchuk 46), Shevchenko (Khudobyak 90), Voronin (Olinyk 46), Selezniov (Milevskyi 46).
Canada: Hirschfeld - De Jong, Jakovic, Straith, Stalteri, Bernier, Beaulieu-Bourgault (Ledgerwood 68), Hutchinson, Simpson (Nakajima-Farran 86), Jackson, Occean (Haber 74).

Saturday, October 9

Oct 9 - Sydney
Australia 1 (Carney 53)
Paraguay 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 25,210. **Ref:** Nishimura (Jap)
Australia: Schwarzer - Wilkshire, McKain, North, Carney, Garcia (Brosque 90+1), Jedinak, Culina, Kewell (Vidosic 87), Cahill (McKay 75), Kennedy (McDonald 60).
Paraguay: D Barreto - Bonet, Da Silva, Veron, Morel (C Benitez 80), Orue (M Riveros 52), Camacho (Martinez 55), C Riveros (Vera 78), V Caceres, Perez (E Benitez 66), Haedo Valdez (Santander 76).

Oct 9 - San Jose
Guatemala 4 (Brown 20, Castellanos 50, Pezzarossi 69, Figueroa 74)
Belize 2 (Roches 43, Kuylen 53)
HT: 1-1

Oct 9 - Auckland
New Zealand 1 (Wood 45)
Honduras 1 (W Martinez 65)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 18,153. **Ref:** O'Leary (NZ)
New Zealand: Paston - Reid, Vicelich, Nelsen (Sigmund 82), Elliott, Brown (Christie 75), Smeltz, Killen, Bertos (Clapham 88), Wood, Brockie (McGlinchey 75).
Honduras: N Valladares - Norales, E Martinez (Johnny Palacios 85), Welcome, M Martinez, W Martinez (Bengtson 83), Sabillon, Delgado (Boniek Garcia 46), Guerrero, Claros, Mendoza.

Oct 9 - Jeddah
Saudi Arabia 4 (Aseeri pen 30, 44, Al Jassim 58, Basheer 87)
Uzbekistan 0
HT: 2-0
Sent off: Shavkat (Uzbekistan) 29min

Oct 9 - Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates 0
Chile 2 (Cereceda pen 5, Morales 37)
HT: 0-2. **Ref:** Al Ghamdi (Sau)
Chile: Marin - Fuenzalida, O Gonzalez, Martinez, Cereceda, Maldonado (Toro 74), Millar, Morales (Paredes 46), Hernandez (Meneses 46), Mancilla (Magalhaes 68), M Gonzalez (Villanueva 59).

Oct 9 - Chicago
United States 2 (Altidore 13, Onyewu 52)
Poland 2 (Matuszczyk 29, Blaszczykowski 73)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 31,696. **Ref:** DePiero (Can)
United States: Howard - Cherundolo, Onyewu, Edu, Bocanegra, Jones, Bradley, Holden, Dempsey, Feilhaber (Bedoya 63), Altidore.
Poland: Boruc - L Mierzejewski, Murawski, R Lewandowski, Obraniak, Zewlakow, Matuszczyk, Blaszczykowski, A Mierzejewski (Niedzielan 71), Pietrasiak, Piszczek.

Sunday, October 10

Oct 10 - Kingston
Jamaica 1 (Richards pen 19)
Trinidad & Tobago 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 7,000. **Ref:** Archundia (Mex)
Jamaica: McCallum - J Taylor, A Reid, Thomas, Vernan (Cousins 75), Austin, Daley (Edwards 63; Trail 87), Francis, Fuller (Orgill 55), Richards (Boyd 70), Morgan (R Johnson 55).
Trinidad & Tobago: J M Williams - Marshall, Cupid (Tinto 78), Leon (Hector 70), J Jones, Cyrus (James 85), Wolfe, Noel, Peltier (Daniel 46), Glen, Jorsling (Gay 78).

Monday, October 11

Oct 11 - Derby, England
Ukraine 0
Brazil 2 (Daniel Alves 25, Alexandre Pato 65)
HT: 0-1. **Att:** 13,088. **Ref:** Atkinson (Eng)
Ukraine: Dykan - Mandzyuk, Kucher, Fedetskyi, Romanchuk, Tymoshchuk, Rotan, Polyovyi (Hai 73), Husiev (Khudobyak 46), Aliyev, Milevskyi (Selezniov 62).
Brazil: Victor - Daniel Alves, Thiago Silva, David Luiz, Andre Santos (Adriano Correia 46), Lucas, Ramires (Sandro 66), Elias (Wesley 87), Carlos Eduardo (Giuliano 66), Robinho (Andre 83), Alexandre Pato (Nilmar 78).

Tuesday, October 12

Oct 12 - Manama
Bahrain 2 (Mubarak 30, Salaman 53)
Uzbekistan 4 (Navkarov 5, Geynrikh 12, Ahmedov 43, Shatskikh 45+1)
HT: 1-4

Oct 12 - Istanbul
Bulgaria 2 (Rangelov 39, Domovchiyski 45)
Saudi Arabia 0
HT: 2-0

Oct 12 - Wuhan
China 0
Uruguay 4 (Feng Xiaoting og 70, Cavani 78, C Rodriguez 81, S Fernandez 84)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,000
China: Zeng Cheng - Feng Xiaotirg (Wang Qiang 74), Hao Junmin, Deng Zhuoxiang, Feng Renliang (Qu Bo 54), Zhang Linpeng, Gao Lin (Han Peng 83), Yang Hao (Zhang Chenglin 69), Rong Hao, Du Wei, Yu Tao (Huang Bowen 79).
Uruguay: Muslera - M Pereira, Lugano (Victorino 67), Caceres, Fucile (C Rodriguez 46), Perez (Eguren 64), Gargano, A Pereira (Scotti 86), Cavani, Forlan (S Fernandez 64), Suarez (Ramirez 80).

Oct 12 - Quesada
Costa Rica 2 (Sanchez 10, J Martinez 86)
El Salvador 1 (Burgos 50)
HT: 1-0
Costa Rica: Bolivar - Badilla, G Gonzalez, Oviedo (Meneses 66), Blanco, Herrera (J Martinez 56), Russell, Barrantes (Guzman 77), Acosta (Arias 66), Sanchez (Smith 80), Alfaro (Monge 60).
El Salvador: H Hernandez - Henriquez, Salazar, Marvin Gonzalez, Turcios, R Hernandez, R Sanchez (D Alas 69), J Alas (Sosa 83), A Flores (Martin 46), Romero (Burgos 46), Blanco (E Sanchez 46).

Oct 12 - Zagreb
Croatia 2 (Srna 35, Kranjcar 49)
Norway 1 (Abdellaoue 21)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 3,000. **Ref:** Skomina (Sln)
Croatia: Pletikosa - Srna (Buljat 88), Simunic, Schildenfeld, Strinic, Mandzukic, Pranjic (Pokrivac 90), Modric (Ilicevic 46), Vukojevic (Dujmovic 61), Kranjcar, Eduardo (Bilic 61).
Norway: Jarstein - Ruud, Hangeland (Waehler 64), Demidov, J A Riise, Braaten (Carew 64), Henriksen (Hauger 46), Jenssen (Grindheim 46), Vaagan Moen (Rindaroy 85), Gamst Pedersen, Abdellaoue (Huseklepp 59).

Oct 12 - Montreal, Canada
Ecuador 2 (Benitez 32, 78)
Poland 2 (Smolarek 60, Obraniak 70)
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Navarro (Can)
Ecuador: Banguera - Checa, Campos, Paredes, Noboa, Minda, Arroyo, W Ayovi, Saritama, Guerron (Mina 85), Benitez.
Poland: Tyton - Piszczek (Jedrzejczyk 62), Glik, Zewlakow, L Mierzejewski, Murawski, A Mierzejewski (Majewski 81), Wolakiewicz, Obraniak, Smolarek (Grosicki 68), R Lewandowski (Niedzielan 88).

Oct 12 - Malabo
Equatorial Guinea 0
Botswana 2

Oct 12 - Istanbul
Gabon 0
Saudi Arabia 1 (Richani 4)
HT: 0-1

Oct 12 - Los Angeles, USA
Honduras 2 (Rojas 21, Welcome 81)
Guatemala 0
HT: 1-0. **Ref:** Hernandez (USA)
Honduras: N Valladares (Canales 46) - Norales, Garcia, Arzu, Johnny Palacios, Guerrero, Claros (Meza 60), Alvarez (Lopez 82), R Nunez (M Martinez 74), Bengtson (Welcome 60), Rojas (Licona 68).
Guatemala: Trigueno (Molina 46) - Cabrera, Flores, Medina (Castellanos 46), Gallardo, Lopez, Guevara, Aguilar (Castillo 14; Castrillo 70), Pappa (Avila 46), M Rodriguez (Ciani 67), Montepeque.

Oct 12 - Bandung
Indonesia 3 (Oktovianus 30, Yongki 74, Tony 90)
Maldives 0
HT: 1-0

Oct 12 - Kuwait City
Kuwait 3 (Agab 68, Al Sulaiman 79, 90)
Vietnam 1 (Phan Van Tai Em 57)
HT: 0-0
Sent off: P Van Quyen, P Van Tai Em (both Vietnam)

Oct 12 - Juarez
Mexico 2 (J Hernandez 34, G Dos Santos 61)
Venezuela 2 (Arango 7, 41)
HT: 1-2. **Ref:** Aguilar (ESv)
Mexico: G Ochoa (Corona 46) - Estrada (E Hernandez 33), Duenas (Torres 62), F Rodriguez, Salcido, Marquez, Rios (Magallon 46), Barrera, G Dos Santos, Orozco (Esqueda 46), J Hernandez.
Sent off: F Rodriguez 90+2min.
Venezuela: D Hernandez - G Cichero, Vizcarrondo, Perozo, Lucena, Seijas (Granados 28), C Gonzalez (Rosales 72), Romero, Arango, Chourio (Bustamante 88), Moreno (Renteria 68). *Sent off: G Cichero 25min.*

Oct 12 - Wellington
New Zealand 0
Paraguay 2 (Haedo Valdez pen 22, Martinez 27)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 16,477. **Ref:** Cross (NZ)
New Zealand: Paston (Moss 79) - Sigmund (Boyens 52), Reid, Vicelich, Elliott, Brown, Killen, Bertos (Clapham 82), McGlinchey (Fallon 79), Wood, Brockie (Christie 52). *Sent off: Reid 90min.*
Paraguay: Villar - Veron, Morel, Bonet (C Benitez 58), Molinas (V Caceres 82), E Benitez (Camacho 57), Vera (M Riveros 83), Da Silva, C Riveros, Haedo Valdez (Santander 59), Martinez (Perez 78).

Oct 12 - Muscat
Oman 0
Chile 1 (Morales 21)
HT: 0-1. **Ref:** Blooshi (Kuw)
Chile: Marin - O Gonzalez, Martinez, Cereceda, Meneses, Maldonado, Millar, Morales (Paredes 46), M Gonzalez, Mancilla (Fuenzalida 68), Hernandez (Magalhaes 89).

Oct 12 - Panama City
Panama 1 (G Torres 76)
Peru 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 5,000. **Ref:** Cerdas (CR)
Panama: Mejia - R Torres, Machado, Baloy, Rivera (L Henriquez 60), Quintero (G Torres 62), Solis (Cooper 89), Gomez (A Henriquez 46), Escobar, Renteria (Aguilar 65), Tejada (B Perez 74).
Peru: R Fernandez - Vilchez, Tragodara (R Torres 67), Zambrano, Ballon, Ramos (Galliquio 46), Farfan, Ramirez (Advincula 80), Rabanal, Rivas, Fano (Rengifo 57). *Sent off: Zambrano 27min.*

Oct 12 - Doha
Qatar 1 (Mohammed 27)
Iraq 2 (Emad 11, 57)
HT: 1-1

Oct 12 - Seoul
South Korea 0
Japan 0
Att: 62,503. **Ref:** Irmatov (Uzb)
South Korea: Jung Sung-ryong - Lee Jung-soo, Hong Jeong-ho, Cho Yong-hyung, Lee Young-pyo, Choi Hyo-jin (Cha Du-ri 82), Yoon Bitgaram, Shin Hyung-min (Ki Sung-yueng 46), Choi Sung-kuk (Yeom Ki-hun 66; Yoo Byung-soo 82), Lee Chung-yong, Park Chu-young.
Japan: Nishikawa - Komano (Uchida 15), Kurihara, Nagatomo, Endo (K Nakamura 86), Konno, Hasebe, Matsui (Kanazaki 79), Maeda, Honda, Kagawa (Hosogai 72).

Oct 12 - Abu Dhabi
United Arab Emirates 0
Angola 2 (Rasca 20, Vado 88)
HT: 0-1

Oct 12 - Chester
United States 0
Colombia 0
Att: 8,823. **Ref:** Garcia (Mex)
United States: Guzan - Spector (Lichaj 46), Onyewu (Parkhurst 46), Goodson, Pearce, Edu (Johnson 46), Jones, Bradley, Holden (Feilhaber 59), Altidore, Shea (Dempsey 46).
Colombia: Mondragon - Zuniga, A Mosquera, Yepes, Juan Valencia, Ibarbo (Cuadrado 63), Viafara (Jhon Valencia 63), J Restrepo, Ramos (Gutierrez 73), G Moreno (Armero 81), Falcao (Quintero 56).

PEOPLE in the news

Rijkaard sacked by Galatasaray

Gala finale...Rijkaard (left) and Neeskens

EUROPE

FRANK RIJKAARD and his assistant coach, JOHAN NEESKENS, left Galatasaray by mutual consent. The Dutchman guided the club to a third-place finish in the Turkish league last season but left the team in a disappointing ninth spot this term, having picked up only 12 points from the opening eight games. GHEORGHE HAGI, who won the UEFA Cup as a player with Gala in 2000, has taken over as coach for a second time.

Former England manager SVEN GORAN ERIKSSON has taken charge of Championship club Leicester City, who sacked PAULO SOUSA after they lost six of their opening eight league games. The 62-year-old Swede, who led the Ivory Coast at this summer's World Cup, had been due to join Al Hilal of Saudi Arabia.

Former Sevilla, Tottenham and Real Madrid coach JUANDE RAMOS has taken charge at Ukrainian club Dnipro Dnipropetrovsk. He replaces VOLODYMYR BESSONOV.

CHRISTIAN GROSS was sacked by Stuttgart after a poor start to the season saw his side bottom of the Bundesliga with three points from their first seven games.

Barcelona's DAVID VILLA broke RAUL's record for Spain when he scored his 45th international goal in the 3-2 victory over Scotland.

PIERLUIGI CASIRAGHI stepped down as Italy Under-21 coach following the side's failure to reach next summer's European Under-21 Championship.

German coach BERND STORCK was sacked by the Kazakhstan national team after four successive defeats in their Euro 2012 qualifying group.

Retiring...Galletti

Bolton Wanderers striker KEVIN DAVIES, at the age of 33, became the oldest player to make his England international debut for 60 years when he appeared as a substitute against Montenegro.

Tottenham Hotspur midfielder GARETH BALE was named Wales' Footballer of the Year. Arsenal's 19-year-old AARON RAMSEY retained the young player of the year award despite being out with a broken leg.

Former France winger JEROME ROTHEN had his contract with Paris Saint-Germain cancelled by mutual consent. The 32-year-old, who had eight months left to run on his deal, is now free to find a new club.

Newcastle United striker ANDY CARROLL, who had appeared in court charged with assault, was ordered to live with his club captain KEVIN NOLAN as part of his bail conditions.

Poland defender MICHAL ZEWLAKOW set a new national record when he won his 101st cap in the friendly against Ecuador. The 34-year-old veteran surpassed the mark of former Polish hero GRZEGORZ LATO.

Vitesse Arnhem, who won just two of their opening nine games in the Dutch league, sacked coach THEO BOS.

Olympiakos' former Argentina forward LUCIANO GALLETTI announced his retirement after almost a year out of the game following severe kidney failure.

SOUTH AMERICA

Former Brazil star ZICO quit his post as technical director at Flamengo after just four months in the job. A number of reports had suggested that his sons, Junior and Bruno Coimbra, were involved in the transfers of a number of players, thus taking advantage of his position at the club.

ROMARIO was voted into Brazil's lower house of congress in his first attempt to be elected for political office. The 44-year-old's former international strike partner BEBETO has followed the same path and was elected to Rio's state congress.

Scorer...Hesmer

CONCACAF

Columbus Crew's WILLIAM HESMER became only the second goalkeeper to score in MLS history, grabbing an injury-time equaliser from close range in a 2-2 draw with Toronto.

One-time Manchester United midfielder EDDIE JOHNSON was one of the first players to join new MLS club Portland Timbers.

AFRICA

Zimbabwe captain BENJANI MWARUWARI retired from international football following the Warriors' 0-0 draw at home to Cape Verde. "I have made up my mind and believe new players have to come and play their part," explained the 32-year-old Blackburn Rovers striker.

Former England Under-21 captain NIGEL REO-COKER turned down an invitation to play for Sierra Leone. The 26-year-old Aston Villa midfielder still has hopes of representing England at full international level.

ASIA

Former England and Tottenham Hotspur defender GRAHAM ROBERTS has been appointed head coach of Pakistan. His only previous managerial experience was with English lower-league side Yeovil Town and Scottish club Clyde.

Fulham and Australia goalkeeper MARK SCHWARZER was voted Footballer of the Year and the Professional Footballers Australia Footballer of the Year at the 2010 Australian Football Awards.

Austrian coach JOSEF HICKERSBERGER resigned as coach of Bahrain after just four months in charge of the national team.

Former North Queensland Fury coach IAN FERGUSON replaced DAVID MITCHELL in charge at Perth Glory.

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Eneramo's punch floors Al Ahly

That's handy...Youssef Msnaki hitches a ride as Eneramo wheels away after scoring Esperance's controversial winner

ENGLAND have their Maradona, now Egypt have their Eneramo.

The latest incarnation of a "Hand of God" goal ended any hopes Cairo giants Al Ahly had of adding to their record number of African Champions League titles as they went out in controversial circumstances in the semi-final.

The decisive goal in their tie against Esperance was punched into the net by the forearm of the Tunisian club's Nigerian striker Michael Eneramo, seen clearly in the stadium and on television by almost all save for the Ghanaian referee, Joseph Lamptey.

It came after just 50 seconds of the second leg at the Stade du 7 Novembre in Rades, on the outskirts of Tunis, and set the tone for another bitter battle between the two big north African clubs.

Ahly's cause was all but ended when veteran Mohamed Barakat, hero of so many of their past triumphs, needlessly lashed out after a tackle and was sent off. That was after only 21 minutes and left Ahly short-changed in their bid to get back into the tie.

It stayed at 1-0 for the rest of the match, handing Esperance success on the away-goals rule and a place in the Final for the first time in 10 years.

The Egyptians had a slender 2-1 lead from the first leg in Cairo, a game marked by some horrific scenes of violence in the stands. A small posse of Esperance fans beat up several of the stadium's security personnel and the savagely brutal images were vividly shown on television.

Eneramo's hand-goal has allowed Ahly to escape more intense focus on their form and fortunes as age catches up with an all-conquering generation. The vociferous bleating after their misfortune is likely to prove diversionary at a time when Ahly need some serious reflection about their immediate future.

Esperance will meet holders TP Mazembe in the two-legged Final, with the first leg in Lubumbashi.

Mazembe, from the DR Congo, won 3-1 on aggregate against JS Kabylie of Algeria, all the goals coming in the first leg, but have had to do without talisman striker Tresor Mputu, belatedly banned for one year after attacking a referee in a regional tournament earlier this year.

His absence was expected to be a devastating blow, but the semi-final showed not only Mazembe's ability in front of goal but also the strength of their defence.

Their semi-final win also came soon after they suddenly and surprisingly fired French coach Diego Garzitto, replacing him with Lamine N'Diaye, a former national team coach of Senegal.

Mark Gleeson

> "Eneramo's handball was seen clearly in the stadium and on television by almost all save for the Ghanaian referee, Joseph Lamptey"

Flashpoint...Esperance fans clash with Egyptian riot police during the first leg in Cairo

Out...Kabylie's Mohamed Amine Aoudia

On fire...Eto'o

400 goals scored by Barcelona in Europe's top club competition, David Villa notching the milestone against Rubin Kazan

ISRAEL

Keeper makes mark

Nigeria goalkeeper Vincent Enyeama's consolation penalty for Hapoel Tel Aviv against Lyon was the first goal scored by an Israeli side in the Champions League group stage since 2004.

ITALY

No stopping Eto'o

Samuel Eto'o made it 11 goals in nine games this season as he helped himself to a hat-trick in Internazionale's 4-0 victory over Werder Bremen in the Champions League.

Wesley Sneijder scored the fourth for the holders, who were so comfortable that coach Rafael Benitez replaced goalkeeper Julio Cesar with 35-year-old Luca Castellazzi for his Inter debut at half-time.

In the Europa League, Edinson Cavani struck in the eighth minute of injury time as Napoli came from thee goals behind to draw 3-3 away to Steaua Bucharest in Romania.

RUSSIA

Spartak's great start

Spartak Moscow beat Zilina 3-0 with goals from Brazilians Ari (two) and Ibson to become the first Russian

RESULTS

EUROPE

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 29

Internazionale (Ita) 4 (Eto'o 21, 27, 81, Sneijder 34)
Werder Bremen (Ger) 0
HT: 3-0. **Att:** 48,126. **Ref:** Undiano Mallenco (Spa)
Inter: Julio Cesar (Castellazzi 46) - Maicon, Cordoba, Lucio (Santon 62), Chivu, Stankovic (Obi 80), Cambiasso, Biabiany, Sneijder, Coutinho, Eto'o.
Werder: Wiese - Wesley, Mertesacker, Prodl, Silvestre, Bargfrede, Jensen, Marin (Hunt 63), Borowski (Pasanen 46), Arnautovic, Hugo Almeida (Wagner 78).

Sep 29

Tottenham Hotspur (Eng) 4 (Van der Vaart 47, Pavlyuchenko pen 50, pen 64, Bale 85)
Twente Enschede (Hol) 1 (Chadli 56)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 32,518. **Ref:** Hauge (Nor)
Tottenham: Gomes - Hutton, Bassong, King, Assou-Ekotto, Huddlestone, Van der Vaart, Modric (Lennon 82), Bale, Pavlyuchenko (Keane 89), Crouch (Jenas 66).
Twente: Mihaylov - Rosales, Douglas, Wisgerhof, Kuiper, Brama, Janssen, Ruiz, Landzaat (De Jong 69), Bajrami (Chadli 28), Janko.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Inter	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Tottenham	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
Twente	2	0	1	1	3	6	1
Werder	2	0	1	1	2	6	1

Sep 14	Twente v Internazionale 2-2
	Werder v Tottenham 2-2
Sep 29	Internazionale v Werder 4-0
	Tottenham v Twente 4-1
Oct 20	Internazionale v Tottenham
	Twente v Werder
Nov 2	Tottenham v Internazionale
	Werder v Twente
Nov 24	Internazionale v Twente
	Tottenham v Werder
Dec 7	Twente v Tottenham
	Werder v Internazionale

Group B

Sep 29

Hapoel Tel Aviv (Isr) 1 (Enyeama pen 79)
Lyon (Fra) 3 (Michel Bastos pen 7, 36, Pjanic 90+4)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 12,226. **Ref:** Webb (Eng)
Hapoel: Enyeama - Bondarv, Douglas, Badier, Ben Dayan, Vermouth, Rocchi (Shivhon 59), Yadin, Zahavi (Abutbul 59), Shechter, Sahar (Tamuz 76).
Lyon: Lloris - Reveillere, Diakhate, Lovren, Cissokho, Kallstrom, Toulalan, Gourcuff (Pjanic 77), Michel Bastos (Gonalons 89), Briand, Gomis (Pied 63).

Sep 29

Schalke (Ger) 2 (Farfan 73, Huntelaar 85)
Benfica (Por) 0
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 50,436. **Ref:** Rocchi (Ita)
Schalke: Neuer - Uchida (Sarpei 58), Papadopoulos, Metzelder, Schmitz, Matip, Farfan, Rakitic (Jones 66), Jurado (Kluge 78), Huntelaar, Raul.
Benfica: Roberto - Pereira, Luisao, David Luiz, Cesar Peixoto, Javi Garcia, Gaitan (Salvio 46), Carlos Martins, Fabio Coentrao, Saviola (Aimar 63), Cardozo (Kardec 71).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lyon	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Schalke	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Benfica	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
Hapoel Tel Aviv	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Sep 14	Benfica v Hapoel Tel Aviv 2-0
	Lyon v Schalke 1-0
Sep 29	Hapoel Tel Aviv v Lyon 1-3
	Schalke v Benfica 2-0
Oct 20	Lyon v Benfica
	Schalke v Hapoel Tel Aviv
Nov 2	Benfica v Lyon
	Hapoel Tel Aviv v Schalke
Nov 24	Hapoel Tel Aviv v Benfica
	Schalke v Lyon
Dec 7	Benfica v Schalke
	Lyon v Hapoel Tel Aviv

Group C

Sep 29

Rangers (Sco) 1 (S Naismith 18)
Bursaspor (Tur) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 41,905. **Ref:** Gumienny (Blg)
Rangers: McGregor - Whittaker, Bougherra, Weir, Papac, Davis, Edu, McCulloch, Broadfoot, S Naismith, Miller (Lafferty 87).
Bursaspor: Ivankov - Ali, Omer, Stepanov, Vederson, Svensson, Ergic (Insua 39), Volkan, Batalla (Nunez 72), Ozan, Sercan (Turgay 72).

Sep 29

Valencia (Spa) 0
Manchester United (Eng) 1 (Hernandez 85)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 34,946. **Ref:** Kassai (Hun)
Valencia: Cesar - Miguel, David Navarro, Maduro, Mathieu, Albelda (Mehmet 86), Tino Costa (Fernandes 75), Pablo, Dominguez (Aduriz 59), Mata, Soldado.
Man United: Van der Sar - Rafael (O'Shea 90+2), Ferdinand, Vidic, Evra, Fletcher, Carrick, Anderson (Hernandez 77), Nani, Park, Berbatov (Macheda 85).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Man United	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Rangers	2	1	1	0	1	0	4
Valencia	2	1	0	1	4	1	3
Bursaspor	2	0	0	2	0	5	0

Sep 14	Bursaspor v Valencia 0-4
	Man United v Rangers 0-0
Sep 29	Rangers v Bursaspor 1-0
	Valencia v Man United 0-1
Oct 20	Man United v Bursaspor
	Rangers v Valencia
Nov 2	Bursaspor v Man United
	Valencia v Rangers
Nov 24	Rangers v Man United
	Valencia v Bursaspor
Dec 7	Bursaspor v Rangers
	Man United v Valencia

Group D

Sep 29

Panathinaikos (Gre) 0
Copenhagen (Den) 2 (N'Doye 28, Vingaard 37)
HT: 0-2. **Att:** 43,607. **Ref:** Collum (Sco)
Panathinaikos: Tzorvas - Marinos, Gilberto Silva, Sarriegi, Vyntra, Katsouranis (Karagounis 46), Simao, Ninis (Plessis 58), Luis Garcia (Spyropoulos 46), Leto, Cisse. *Sent off: Gilberto Silva 48min.*
Copenhagen: Wiland - Pospech, Jorgensen, Antonsson, Wendt, Bolanos (Norregaard 58), Claudemir (Delaney 79), Kvist, Vingaard, Gronkjaer, N'Doye (Santin 76).

Sep 29

Rubin Kazan (Rus) 1 (Noboa pen 30)
Barcelona (Spa) 1 (Villa pen 60)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 23,950. **Ref:** Cakir (Tur)
Rubin: Ryzhikov - Kaleshin, Salukvadze, Cesar Navas, Bocchetti, Ansaldi, Ryazantsev, Murawski, Noboa (Natcho 88), Gokdeniz (Martins 64), Kornilenko (Sibaya 62).
Barcelona: Valdes - Daniel Alves, Pique, Puyol, Maxwell, Busquets, Mascherano (Messi 60), Xavi, Pedro, Villa (Bojan 86), Iniesta.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Copenhagen	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Barcelona	2	1	1	0	6	2	4
Rubin Kazan	2	0	1	1	1	2	1
Panathinaikos	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Sep 14	Barcelona v Panathinaikos 5-1
	Copenhagen v Rubin 1-0
Sep 29	Panathinaikos v Copenhagen... 0-2
	Rubin v Barcelona 1-1
Oct 20	Barcelona v Copenhagen
	Panathinaikos v Rubin
Nov 2	Copenhagen v Barcelona
	Rubin v Panathinaikos
Nov 24	Panathinaikos v Barcelona
	Rubin v Copenhagen
Dec 7	Barcelona v Rubin
	Copenhagen v Panathinaikos

Group E

Sep 28

Basle (Swi) 1 (Frei 18)
Bayern Munich (Ger) 2 (Schweinsteiger pen 56, 89)
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,500. **Ref:** Thomson (Sco)
Basle: Costanzo - Inkoom, Abraham, Ferati, Safari, Huggel (Cabral 87), Yapi (Almerares 90+1), Shaqiri (Chipperfield 80), Stocker, Frei, Streller.
Bayern: Butt - Lahm, Van Buyten, Badstuber, Pranjic, Van Bommel, Schweinsteiger, Altintop (Gomez 46), Kroos (Olic 57), Muller, Klose (Tymoshchuk 77).

Sep 28

Roma (Ita) 2 (Mexes 69, Borriello 71)
CFR Cluj (Rom) 1 (Rada 78)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 30,252. **Ref:** Eriksson (Swe)
Roma: Lobont - Cicinho (Cassetti 64), Mexes, N Burdisso, Castellini, De Rossi, Pizarro, Menez (Adriano 46), Totti, Perrotta, Vucinic (Borriello 64).
CFR: Nuno Claro - Panin, Cadu, Alcantara, Rada, Culio, Kivuvu, Dica, Edimar (Kone 68), Hora (De Zerbi 76), Traore (Bjelanovic 82).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP E

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bayern	2	2	0	0	4	1	6
Roma	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
CFR Cluj	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Basle	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Sep 15	Bayern Munich v Roma 2-0
	CFR Cluj v Basle 2-1
Sep 28	Basle v Bayern Munich 1-2
	Roma v CFR Cluj 2-1
Oct 19	Bayern Munich v CFR Cluj
	Roma v Basle
Nov 3	Basle v Roma
	CFR Cluj v Bayern Munich
Nov 23	Basle v CFR Cluj
	Roma v Bayern Munich
Dec 8	Bayern Munich v Basle
	CFR Cluj v Roma

Group F

Sep 28

Chelsea (Eng) 2 (Terry 7, Anelka pen 29)
Marseille (Fra) 0
HT: 2-0. **Att:** 40,675. **Ref:** De Bleeckere (Blg)
Chelsea: Cech - Ivanovic, Alex, Terry, Cole, Essien, Mikel (McEachran 88), Zhirkov (Sturridge 73), Kakuta (Ramires 62), Anelka, Malouda.
Marseille: Mandanda - Kabore, Diawara, Mbia, Heinze, Gonzalez, Cisse, Cheyrou (A Ayew 59), Remy, Gignac (Valbuena 59), Brandao.

Sep 28

Spartak Moscow (Rus) 3 (Ari 34, 61, Ibson 89)
Zilina (Slk) 0
HT: 1-0. **Att:** 37,000. **Ref:** Hansson (Swe)
Spartak: Dykan - Parshivlyuk, Suchy, Pareja, Makeev, McGeady, Sheshukov (Sabitov 90), Alex, D Kombarov (Maidana 84), Ari, Welliton (Ibson 67).
Zilina: Dubravka - Guldan, Piacek, Sourek, Mraz, Rilke (Vladavic 65), Pecalka (Ceesay 46), Majtan (Angelovic 82), Jez, Vittor, Oravec.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP F

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	2	2	0	0	6	1	6
Spartak M'cow	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Marseille	2	0	0	2	0	3	0
Zilina	2	0	0	2	1	7	0

Sep 15	Marseille v Spartak Moscow.... 0-1
	Zilina v Chelsea 1-4
Sep 28	Chelsea v Marseille 2-0
	Spartak Moscow v Zilina 3-0
Oct 19	Marseille v Zilina
	Spartak Moscow v Chelsea
Nov 3	Chelsea v Spartak Moscow
	Zilina v Marseille
Nov 23	Chelsea v Zilina
	Spartak Moscow v Marseille
Dec 8	Marseille v Chelsea
	Zilina v Spartak Moscow

Winner...Naismith

side in 12 years to win their opening two group games in the UEFA Champions League.

SCOTLAND

Home sweet home

Rangers finally ended their long wait for a victory in the Champions League when a solitary Steven Naismith goal secured three points against Turkish champions Bursaspor at Ibrox.

The Scottish Premier League holders lost all three home games in last season's group stage and had not won in the competition since a 3-0 triumph at Lyon in 2007.

UKRAINE

Gazzaev gone

Dynamo Kyiv coach Valery Gazzaev quit after the 2-0 defeat to Sheriff of Moldova in the Europa League. He had initially tendered his resignation after the previous group game.

All over...Gazzaev

15 Brazilians who played in the Braga versus Shakhtar Donetsk Champions League game

Group G

Sep 28
Ajax (Hol) 1 (El Hamdaoui 23)
Milan (Ita) 1 (Ibrahimovic 37)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 51,276. **Ref:** Brych (Ger)
Ajax: Stekelenburg - Van der Wiel, Alderweireld, Vertonghen, Anita (Sulejmani 39), De Zeeuw (Lindgren 79), De Jong, Enoh, Suarez, El Hamdaoui, Emanuelson.
Milan: Abbiati - Zambrotta, Nesta, Thiago Silva, Antonini, Flamini (Boateng 52), Pirlo, Gattuso, Seedorf (Abate 85), Ibrahimovic, Robinho (Inzaghi 85).

Sep 28
Auxerre (Fra) 0
Real Madrid (Spa) 1 (Di Maria 81)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 19,525. **Ref:** Larsen (Den)
Auxerre: Sorin - Hengbart, Coulibaly, Grichting, Dudka, Pedretti, Ndinga, Coutout (Jelen 46), Chafni (Quercia 88), Langil (Traore 78), Oliech.
Real Madrid: Casillas - Arbeloa, Pepe, Sergio Ramos, Marcelo, Khedira, Xabi Alonso, L Diarra (Di Maria 74), Benzema (Ozil 58), Higuain (M Diarra 86), Cristiano Ronaldo.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP G

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Milan	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Ajax	2	0	1	1	1	3	1
Auxerre	2	0	0	2	0	3	0

Sep 15	Milan v Auxerre 2-0
	Real Madrid v Ajax 2-0
Sep 28	Ajax v Milan 1-1
	Auxerre v Real Madrid 0-1
Oct 19	Ajax v Auxerre
	Real Madrid v Milan
Nov 3	Auxerre v Ajax
	Milan v Real Madrid
Nov 23	Ajax v Real Madrid
	Auxerre v Milan
Dec 8	Milan v Ajax
	Real Madrid v Auxerre

Group H

Sep 28
Braga (Por) 0
Shakhtar Donetsk (Ukr) 3 (Luiz Adriano 56, 72, Douglas Costa pen 90+2)
HT: 0-0. **Att:** 12,083. **Ref:** Blom (Hol)
Braga: Felipe - Miguel Garcia, Moises, Rodriguez (Paulao 36), Silvio, Vandinho (Mossoro 74), Leandro Salino (Lima 55), Alan, Luis Aguiar, Paulo Cesar, Matheus.
Shakhtar: Pyatov - Srna, Kucher, Rakytskyi, Rat, Hai (Jadson 66), Hubschman (Vitsenets 79), Douglas Costa, Mkhitaryan, Willian, Luiz Adriano (Eduardo 75).

Sep 28
Partizan Belgrade (Ser) 1 (Cleo pen 33)
Arsenal (Eng) 3 (Arshavin 15, Chamakh 71, Squillaci 82)
HT: 1-1. **Att:** 29,348. **Ref:** Stark (Ger)
Partizan: Stojkovic - Lazevski, Krstajic, Jovanovic, Stevanovic, Kamara, Petrovic (Smiljanic 69), Tomic (Savic 59), S Ilic, Boya (Iliev 84), Cleo.
Sent off: Jovanovic 56min.
Arsenal: Fabianski - Sagna, Djourou, Squillaci, Gibbs, Rosicky, Denilson, Song, Arshavin (Clichy 83), Wilshere (Nasri 74), Chamakh (Vela 75).

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP H

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Arsenal	2	2	0	0	9	1	6
Shakhtar	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Partizan	2	0	0	2	1	4	0
Braga	2	0	0	2	0	9	0

Sep 15	Arsenal v Braga 6-0
	Shakhtar v Partizan 1-0
Sep 28	Braga v Shakhtar 0-3
	Partizan v Arsenal 1-3
Oct 19	Arsenal v Shakhtar
	Braga v Partizan
Nov 3	Partizan v Braga
	Shakhtar v Arsenal
Nov 23	Braga v Arsenal
	Partizan v Shakhtar
Dec 8	Arsenal v Partizan
	Shakhtar v Braga

Top two in each group qualify for 1st knockout round; the third-placed teams enter Europa League at 1st knockout round stage

EUROPA LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 30: Lech Poznan (Pol) 2 Salzburg (Aut) 0; Manchester City (Eng) 1 Juventus (Ita) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lech Poznan	2	1	1	0	5	3	4
Man City	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Juventus	2	0	2	0	4	4	2
Salzburg	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Manchester City v Lech Poznan; Salzburg v Juventus. **Nov 4:** Juventus v Salzburg; Lech Poznan v Manchester City. **Dec 1:** Lech Poznan v Juventus; Manchester City v Salzburg. **Dec 16:** Juventus v Manchester City; Salzburg v Lech Poznan.

Group B

Sep 30: Atletico Madrid (Spa) 1 Bayer Leverkusen (Ger) 1; Rosenborg (Nor) 2 Aris Salonika (Gre) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Leverkusen	2	1	1	0	5	1	4
Rosenborg	2	1	0	1	2	5	3
Aris	2	1	0	1	2	2	3
At Madrid	2	0	1	1	1	2	1

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Aris Salonika v Bayer Leverkusen; Atletico Madrid v Rosenborg. **Nov 4:** Bayer Leverkusen v Aris Salonika; Rosenborg v Atletico Madrid. **Dec 1:** Atletico Madrid v Aris Salonika; Rosenborg v Bayer Leverkusen. **Dec 16:** Aris Salonika v Rosenborg; Bayer Leverkusen v Atletico Madrid.

Group C

Sep 30: Gent (Blg) 1 Lille (Fra) 1; Sporting Lisbon (Por) 5 Levski Sofia (Bul) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sporting	2	2	0	0	7	1	6
Levski Sofia	2	1	0	1	3	7	3
Lille	2	0	1	1	2	3	1
Gent	2	0	1	1	3	4	1

ESM Team of the Month

European Sports Magazines — SEPTEMBER 2010

HOW IT WORKS

Every month, journalists from each member of the European Sports Magazines group vote for their first XI from Europe's top leagues. The players with the most votes make the overall team. For details of how ESM members voted this month, visit: **worldsoccer.com/esm11**

Resigned...Jarolim

BELGIUM

Eupen's first victory

Bottom of the league with only one point and four goals from their first 10 games, Eupen thrashed St Truiden 6-0 at home for their first three points of the season.

CZECH REPUBLIC

Slavia struggling

Karel Jarolim – who led the club to back-to-back titles in 2008 and 2009, and the group stage of the UEFA Champions League for the first time in 2007-08 – quit as coach of Slavia Prague after a 3-0 defeat at Slovacko.

He was provisionally replaced by his assistant, Michal Petrous, but results have not improved and Slavia are third from bottom, just two points ahead of last-place Brno.

800 matches Arsene Wenger has managed Arsenal, up to the game v Birmingham

Treble...Santin

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Lille v Levski Sofia; Sporting Lisbon v Gent. Nov 4: Gent v Sporting Lisbon; Levski Sofia v Lille. Dec 1: Gent v Levski Sofia; Sporting Lisbon v Lille. Dec 16: Levski Sofia v Sporting Lisbon; Lille v Gent.

Group D
Sep 30: PAOK Salonika (Gre) 1 Dinamo Zagreb (Cro) 0; Villarreal (Spa) 2 Club Brugge (Blg) 1.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP D	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PAOK	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
Dinamo Zagreb	2	1	0	1	2	1	3
Villarreal	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Club Brugge	2	0	1	1	2	3	1

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Dinamo Zagreb v Club Brugge; Villarreal v PAOK Salonika. Nov 4: Club Brugge v Dinamo Zagreb; PAOK Salonika v Villarreal. Dec 2: PAOK Salonika v Club Brugge; Villarreal v Dinamo Zagreb. Dec 15: Club Brugge v Villarreal; Dinamo Zagreb v PAOK Salonika.

Group E
Sep 30: BATE Borisov (Bls) 4 AZ Alkmaar (Hol) 1; Sheriff (Mol) 2 Dynamo Kyiv (Ukr) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP E	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
BATE Borisov	2	1	1	0	6	3	4
AZ Alkmaar	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Sheriff	2	1	0	1	3	2	3
Dynamo Kyiv	2	0	1	1	2	4	1

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: AZ v Dynamo Kyiv; Sheriff v BATE Borisov. Nov 4: BATE Borisov v Sheriff; Dynamo Kyiv v AZ. Dec 2: BATE Borisov v Dynamo Kyiv; Sheriff v AZ. Dec 15: AZ v BATE Borisov; Dynamo Kyiv v Sheriff.

Group F
Sep 30: CSKA Moscow (Rus) 3 Sparta Prague (Cze) 0; Palermo (Ita) 1 Lausanne (Swi) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP F	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
CSKA Moscow	2	2	0	0	6	0	6
Sparta Prague	2	1	0	1	3	5	3
Palermo	2	1	0	1	3	3	3
Lausanne	2	0	0	2	0	4	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Palermo v CSKA Moscow; Sparta Prague v Lausanne. Nov 4: CSKA Moscow v Palermo; Lausanne v Sparta Prague. Dec 2: CSKA Moscow v Lausanne; Palermo v Sparta Prague. Dec 15: Lausanne v Palermo; Sparta Prague v CSKA Moscow.

Group G
Sep 30: Hajduk Split (Cro) 1 Anderlecht (Blg) 0; Zenit St Petersburg (Rus) 4 AEK Athens (Gre) 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP G	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	2	2	0	0	7	3	6
AEK	2	1	0	1	5	5	3
Hajduk	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Anderlecht	2	0	0	2	1	4	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Anderlecht v AEK Athens; Zenit v Hajduk Split. Nov 4: AEK Athens v Anderlecht; Hajduk Split v Zenit. Dec 1: Hajduk Split v AEK Athens; Zenit v Anderlecht. Dec 16: AEK Athens v Zenit; Anderlecht v Hajduk Split.

Group H
Sep 30: OB Odense (Den) 1 Stuttgart (Ger) 2; Young Boys (Swi) 2 Getafe (Spa) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP H	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Stuttgart	2	2	0	0	5	1	6
Young Boys	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
Getafe	2	1	0	1	2	3	3
OB Odense	2	0	0	2	2	4	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Stuttgart v Getafe; Young Boys v OB Odense. Nov 4: Getafe v Stuttgart; OB Odense v Young Boys. Dec 1: OB Odense v Getafe; Young Boys v Stuttgart. Dec 16: Getafe v Young Boys; Stuttgart v OB Odense.

Group I
Sep 30: Metalist Kharkiv (Ukr) 0 PSV Eindhoven (Hol) 2; Sampdoria (Ita) 1 Debrecen (Hun) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP I	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Sampdoria	2	1	1	0	2	1	4
PSV	2	1	1	0	3	1	4
Metalist	2	1	0	1	5	2	3
Debrecen	2	0	0	2	0	6	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Debrecen v PSV Eindhoven; Metalist v Sampdoria. Nov 4: PSV Eindhoven v Debrecen; Sampdoria v Metalist. Dec 1: Metalist v Debrecen; Sampdoria v PSV Eindhoven. Dec 16: Debrecen v Sampdoria; PSV Eindhoven v Metalist.

Group J
Sep 30: Borussia Dortmund (Ger) 0 Sevilla (Spa) 1; Paris Saint-Germain (Fra) 2 Karpaty Lviv (Ukr) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP J	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSG	2	2	0	0	3	0	6
Sevilla	2	1	0	1	1	1	3
B Dortmund	2	1	0	1	4	4	3
Karpaty	2	0	0	2	3	6	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Borussia Dortmund v Paris Saint-Germain; Karpaty Lviv v Sevilla. Nov 4: Paris Saint-Germain v Borussia Dortmund; Sevilla v Karpaty Lviv. Dec 2: Borussia Dortmund v Karpaty Lviv; Paris Saint-Germain v Sevilla. Dec 15: Karpaty Lviv v Paris Saint-Germain; Sevilla v Borussia Dortmund.

Group K
Sep 30: Steaua Bucharest (Rom) 3 Napoli (Ita) 3; Utrecht (Hol) 0 Liverpool (Eng) 0.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP K	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Liverpool	2	1	1	0	4	1	4
Napoli	2	0	2	0	3	3	2
Utrecht	2	0	2	0	0	0	2
Steaua	2	0	1	1	4	7	1

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Napoli v Liverpool; Utrecht v Steaua Bucharest. Nov 4: Liverpool v Napoli; Steaua Bucharest v Utrecht. Dec 2: Steaua Bucharest v Liverpool; Utrecht v Napoli. Dec 15: Liverpool v Utrecht; Napoli v Steaua Bucharest.

Group L
Sep 30: CSKA Sofia (Bul) 0 Porto (Por) 1; Rapid Wien (Aut) 1 Besiktas (Tur) 2.

EUROPA LEAGUE – GROUP L	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	2	2	0	0	4	0	6
Besiktas	2	2	0	0	3	1	6
CSKA Sofia	2	0	0	2	0	2	0
Rapid Wien	2	0	0	2	1	5	0

Remaining fixtures:
Oct 21: Besiktas v Porto; CSKA Sofia v Rapid Wien. Nov 4: Porto v Besiktas; Rapid Wien v CSKA Sofia. Dec 2: CSKA Sofia v Besiktas; Rapid Wien v Porto. Dec 15: Besiktas v Rapid Wien; Porto v CSKA Sofia.

Top two in each group qualify for 1st knockout round, in which they will be joined by the eight third-placed teams from the Champions League group stage

AUSTRIA

Sep 21: LASK 0 Sturm 4.
Sep 22: Ried 3 Rapid 1; Austria 0 Salzburg 0; Mattersburg 0 Wiener Neustadt 3; Kapfenberger 2 Wacker 4.
Sep 25: Rapid 3 Kapfenberger 2; Salzburg 1 Ried 0; Wacker 0 Wiener Neustadt 0; Mattersburg 3 LASK 3.
Sep 26: Sturm 0 Austria 2.
Oct 2: LASK 0 Mattersburg 1; Austria 2 Sturm 3; Wiener Neustadt 1 Wacker 0.
Oct 3: Kapfenberger 0 Rapid 0; Ried 1 Salzburg 2.
Oct 16: Sturm 0 Ried 1; LASK 2 Wiener Neustadt 1; Salzburg 0 Kapfenberger 2; Rapid 1 Wacker 1.
Oct 17: Mattersburg 0 Austria 3.

AUSTRIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wacker	10	6	3	1	19	6	21
Ried	11	7	0	4	17	9	21
Sturm	10	6	1	3	20	11	19
Austria	11	5	3	3	15	11	18
W Neustadt	11	5	2	4	19	16	17
Rapid	11	4	2	5	12	15	14
Salzburg	9	3	3	3	8	8	12
Kapfenberger	11	3	3	5	11	15	12
LASK	11	2	2	7	9	22	8
Mattersburg	11	2	1	8	7	24	7

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated

BELGIUM

Regular season
Sep 21: St Truiden 0 Genk 2.
Sep 22: Lierse 1 Anderlecht 1; Mechelen 2 Cercle Brugge 2; Kortrijk 1 Westerlo 2; Lokeren 3 Gent 2; Zulte Waregem 4 Germinal Beerschot 3; Standard 2 Charleroi 1; Club Brugge 4 Eupen 0.
Sep 25: Genk 3 Zulte Waregem 0; Gent 2 St Truiden 0; Eupen 0 Lokeren 1; Westerlo 1 Standard 2; Cercle Brugge 2 Kortrijk 1; Charleroi 0 Lierse 1.
Sep 26: Anderlecht 5 Mechelen 0; Germinal Beerschot 2 Club Brugge 1.
Oct 1: Mechelen 2 Genk 2.
Oct 2: Kortrijk 3 Eupen 1; St Truiden 1 Westerlo 2; Lierse 0 Cercle Brugge 1; Lokeren 1 Germinal Beerschot 0; Zulte Waregem 1 Charleroi 1.
Oct 3: Club Brugge 3 Gent 2; Standard 5 Anderlecht 1.
Oct 15: Zulte Waregem 2 Club Brugge 3.
Oct 16: Gent 2 Kortrijk 0; Germinal Beerschot 1 Lierse 1; Charleroi 1 Lokeren 2; Eupen 6 St Truiden 0; Westerlo 1 Mechelen 1.
Oct 17: Genk 4 Standard 2; Cercle Brugge 1 Anderlecht 0.

BELGIUM – REGULAR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Genk	11	9	2	0	35	10	29
Gent	11	7	1	3	22	17	22
Anderlecht	11	6	3	2	23	8	21
Standard	11	6	2	3	22	14	20
Club Brugge	11	6	1	4	26	16	19
Cercle Brugge	11	5	4	2	15	14	19
Mechelen	11	5	4	2	13	13	19
Lokeren	11	5	3	3	16	17	18
Kortrijk	11	5	1	5	12	13	16
Westerlo	11	4	3	4	12	12	15
Germinal B	11	3	3	5	9	14	12
Z Waregem	11	2	5	4	17	19	11
St Truiden	11	2	1	8	6	24	7
Lierse	11	1	3	7	8	19	6
Charleroi	11	1	3	7	7	21	6
Eupen	11	1	1	9	10	22	4

30-round regular season (15x2) – top 6 will enter championship play-offs, 7th to 14th will enter Europa League place play-offs, bottom 2 will enter rel/prom play-offs (1 of them will definitely go down)

BULGARIA

Sep 25: Vidima-Rakovski 0 Lovech 3; Akademik 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 3; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 5 Kaliakra 0; Pirin 1 Minyor 1; CSKA 2 Montana 0.
Sep 26: Cherno More 3 Sliven 0; Levski 2 Beroe 1.
Sep 27: Chernomorets 2 Slavia 1.
Oct 2: Beroe 0 Pirin 0; Minyor 2 Lokomotiv Plovdiv 2; Slavia 2 Vidima-Rakovski 0; Lovech 3 Cherno More 1.
Oct 3: Montana 0 Chernomorets 0; Kaliakra 0 Akademik 1.
Oct 4: Sliven 1 Levski 1; Lokomotiv Sofia 2 CSKA 2.
Oct 16: Sliven 0 Lovech 1; Lokomotiv Plovdiv 1 Beroe 1; Akademik 2 Minyor 0; Vidima-Rakovski 0 Montana 1; Levski 4 Pirin 1.
Oct 17: Cherno More 3 Slavia 2; CSKA 0 Kaliakra 0.
Oct 18: Chernomorets 2 Lokomotiv Sofia 1.

BULGARIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Levski	10	8	1	1	24	9	25
Lovech	10	6	4	0	17	7	22
Chernomorets	10	6	4	0	10	4	22
Lok Sofia	10	6	1	3	22	12	19
Slavia	10	6	0	4	17	10	18
Lok Plovdiv	10	4	4	2	19	11	16
Cherno More	10	5	0	5	13	13	15
Beroe	10	4	3	3	10	11	15
CSKA	10	3	4	3	12	10	13
Montana	10	3	3	4	10	12	12
Pirin	10	2	3	5	8	16	9
Kaliakra	10	2	3	5	3	16	9
Sliven	10	2	2	6	10	13	8
Akademik	10	2	2	6	8	15	8
Minyor	10	1	2	7	10	21	5
V-Rakovski	10	1	2	7	7	20	5

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated; 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

CROATIA

Sep 25: Sibenik 0 Inter 1; Osijek 3 Zadar 2; Istra 0 Split 1; Hajduk 2 Varazdin 0; Cibalia 1 Karlovac 0; Slaven 3 Hrvatski Dragovoljac 0.
Sep 26: Zagreb 3 Rijeka 1; Lokomotiva 0 Dinamo 2.
Oct 1: Hrvatski Dragovoljac 0 Inter 0.
Oct 2: Slaven 1 Cibalia 1; Varazdin 0 Zagreb 0; Rijeka 3 Lokomotiva 0; Split 1 Osijek 0; Zadar 1 Sibenik 4.

DENMARK

Champions on course

After 12 games, Copenhagen are already 12 points clear at the top of the league.

In their most recent outing, a hat-trick from Cesar Santin, together with goals from Martin Vingaard and Dame Ndoye gave the reigning champions a comprehensive 5-0 victory over last season's runners-up OB.

Upset...Northampton celebrate at Anfield

ENGLAND

Liverpool cup shock

Liverpool were beaten at home in the League Cup by fourth-tier Northampton Town. The Premier League side lost 4-2 on penalties after drawing 2-2 in extra-time in the third round.

Reds' manager Roy Hodgson described it as "a major setback to the club as a whole".

FINLAND

HJK crowned again

HJK Helsinki retained their league title without kicking a ball as then-closest challengers Honka lost 2-1 at home to Lahti.

"In any league there is a long season and it requires good results throughout the season to be number one," said a delighted HJK coach Antti Muurinen.

Oct 3: Karlovac 1 Hajduk 1; Dinamo 4 Istra 0.
Oct 15: Zagreb 1 Karlovac 2; Inter 1 Zadar 0.
Oct 16: Cibalia 3 Hrvatski Dragovoljac 0; Lokomotiva 1 Varazdin 2; Istra 0 Rijeka 0; Sibenik 3 Split 0; Hajduk 1 Slaven 0; Osijek 1 Dinamo 3.

CROATIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Dinamo	11	8	2	1	25	8	26
Hajduk	11	7	4	0	26	7	25
Split	11	7	1	3	14	6	22
Rijeka	11	6	2	3	15	11	20
Cibalia	11	5	3	3	14	7	18
Varazdin	11	5	3	3	11	12	18
Zagreb	11	5	2	4	13	10	17
Karlovac	11	5	1	5	12	11	16
Slaven	11	5	1	5	10	10	16
Inter	11	5	1	5	10	12	16
Osijek	11	3	4	4	12	15	13
Sibenik	11	3	3	5	11	11	12
Lokomotiva	11	3	2	6	8	19	11
Zadar	11	3	1	7	13	20	10
Istra	11	0	3	8	5	22	3
H Dragovoljac	11	0	3	8	4	22	3

30-round season (15x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

CYPRUS

Regular season

Sep 25: Anorthosis 2 Olympiakos 1; Doxa 1 Ermis 0; AEP 1 APOEL 1; AEK 1 Ethnikos 1.
Sep 26: Omonia 0 APOP 1; Apollon 1 Alki 2; ENP 1 AEL 1.
Oct 2: AEL 1 Anorthosis 3; Olympiakos 2 AEP 2; APOP 2 Apollon 1; Ermis 1 ENP 0.
Oct 3: APOEL 3 Omonia 0; Alki 1 AEK 2.
Oct 4: Ethnikos 3 Doxa 2.
Oct 16: Anorthosis 4 Ermis 0; AEK 3 APOP 2; AEP 2 AEL 2.
Oct 17: Ethnikos 2 Alki 1; Apollon 0 APOEL 5; Doxa 1 ENP 0.
Oct 18: Omonia 2 Olympiakos 2.

CYPRUS	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Anorthosis	6	5	0	1	16	6	15
APOEL	6	4	1	1	12	3	13
AEK	6	4	1	1	11	7	13
Omonia	6	3	1	2	9	7	10
Ethnikos	6	3	1	2	8	8	10
ENP	6	2	2	2	5	4	8
Ermis	6	2	1	3	5	9	7
Doxa	6	2	1	3	4	9	7
AEP	6	1	3	2	8	9	6
AEL	6	1	3	2	7	8	6
Apollon	6	2	0	4	9	11	6
Alki	6	2	0	4	8	13	6
APOP	6	2	0	4	5	10	6
Olympiakos	6	0	4	2	8	11	4

26-round regular season (13x2) – top 4 will enter championship play-offs, 5th to 8th will enter "placement" play-offs, 9th to 12th will enter relegation play-offs (1 of them will be relegated). Bottom 2 (13th & 14th places) will be relegated automatically

CZECH REPUBLIC

Sep 24: Slovacko 3 Slavia 0.
Sep 25: Liberec 3 Brno 1; Sparta 1 Mlada Boleslav 1.
Sep 26: Bohemians 1905 1 Ostrava 1; Plzen 2 Pribram 1; Ceske Budejovice 2 Jablonec 1; Hradec Kralove 3 Usti nad Labem 3.
Sep 27: Teplice 1 Olomouc 0.
Oct 1: Slavia 0 Plzen 1.
Oct 2: Pribram 2 Ceske Budejovice 0; Teplice 1 Liberec 0; Ostrava 2 Slovacko 1.
Oct 3: Brno 1 Hradec Kralove 2; Jablonec 2 Usti nad Labem 0; Mlada Boleslav 3 Bohemians 1905 2.
Oct 4: Olomouc 0 Sparta 1.
Oct 15: Bohemians 1905 3 Liberec 1.
Oct 16: Sparta 0 Teplice 2.
Oct 17: Hradec Kralove 0 Mlada Boleslav 0; Plzen 4 Brno 1; Jablonec 5 Pribram 1; Ceske Budejovice 2 Ostrava 1; Usti nad Labem 1 Slavia 1.
Oct 18: Slovacko 0 Olomouc 2.

CZECH REPUBLIC	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Plzen	12	11	1	0	33	8	34
Olomouc	12	6	4	2	21	7	22
Sparta	12	7	1	4	18	9	22
Teplice	12	6	3	3	16	13	21
M Boleslav	12	5	5	2	18	12	20
Jablonec	12	5	2	5	19	14	17
Slovacko	12	5	1	6	14	15	16
C Budejovice	12	3	6	3	10	14	15
H Kralove	12	3	5	4	10	13	14
Boh'ians 1905	12	3	4	5	14	16	13
Liberec	12	3	4	5	15	18	13
Ostrava	12	3	3	6	11	17	12
Pribram	12	3	3	6	7	14	12
Slavia	12	2	5	5	11	17	11
Usti	12	2	5	5	10	23	11
Brno	12	3	0	9	12	29	9

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

DENMARK

Sep 25: Midtjylland 0 Copenhagen 3; AaB 0 SonderjyskE 2.
Sep 26: Nordsjaelland 3 Horsens 0; Brondby 0 Silkeborg 2; Esbjerg 2 Randers 2.
Sep 27: OB 3 Lyngby 1.
Oct 2: Midtjylland 1 Lyngby 2.
Oct 3: Esbjerg 1 Nordsjaelland 1; Silkeborg 3 SonderjyskE 1; Brondby 0 Horsens 1; Copenhagen 1 Randers 0.
Oct 4: AaB 1 OB 2.
Oct 16: SonderjyskE 1 AaB 0.
Oct 17: Horsens 1 Esbjerg 1; Nordsjaelland 1 Brondby 1; Lyngby 1 Silkeborg 1; Copenhagen 5 OB 0.
Oct 18: Randers 1 Midtjylland 1.

DENMARK	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Copenhagen	12	10	2	0	29	8	32
Midtjylland	12	6	2	4	19	11	20
Lyngby	12	5	3	4	19	21	18
OB	12	5	2	5	19	20	17
Brondby	12	4	4	4	18	17	16
SonderjyskE	12	5	1	6	14	16	16
Nordsjaelland	12	4	3	5	14	16	15
Silkeborg	12	3	5	4	17	18	14
Horsens	12	4	2	6	9	17	14
Randers	12	2	7	3	13	15	13
Esbjerg	12	3	4	5	15	20	13
AaB	12	2	3	7	12	19	9

33-round season (11x3); bottom 2 will be relegated

ENGLAND

Saturday, September 25

Arsenal 2 (Nasri 75, 90)
West Bromwich 3 (Odemwingie 50, Jara 52, Thomas 73) Att: 60,025

Birmingham 0
Wigan 0 Att: 22,186

Blackpool 1 (Phillips 85)
Blackburn 2 (Adam og 20, Emerton 90) Att: 15,901

Fulham 0
Everton 0 Att: 25,598

Liverpool 2 (Kuyt 5, Gerrard 64)
Sunderland 2 (Bent pen 25, 48) Att: 43,626

Manchester City 1 (Tevez 59)
Chelsea 0 Att: 47,203

West Ham 1 (Piquionne 29)
Tottenham 0 Att: 34,190

Sunday, September 26

Bolton 2 (Knight 6, Petrov 67)
Manchester United 2 (Nani 23, Owen 74) Att: 23,926

Newcastle 1 (Nolan pen 43)
Stoke 2 (Jones 67, Perch og 85) Att: 41,915

Wolverhampton 1 (Jarvis 61)
Aston Villa 2 (Downing 24, Heskey 88) Att: 27,511

Saturday, October 2

Birmingham 0
Everton 2 (Johnson og 54, Cahill 90) Att: 23,138

Stoke 1 (Walters 48)
Blackburn 0 Att: 25,515

Sunderland 0
Manchester United 0 Att: 41,709

Tottenham 2 (Van der Vaart 45, 75)
Aston Villa 1 (Albrighton 16) Att: 35,871

West Bromwich 1 (Morrison 78)
Bolton 1 (Elmander 64) Att: 22,846

West Ham 1 (Piquionne 51)
Fulham 1 (Dempsey 33) Att: 34,589

Wigan 2 (Gomez 65, Rodallega 85)
Wolverhampton 0 Att: 14,042

Sunday, October 3

Chelsea 2 (Drogba 39, Alex 85)
Arsenal 0 Att: 41,828

Liverpool 1 (Kyrgiakos 53)
Blackpool 2 (Adam pen 29, Varney 45) Att: 43,156

Manchester City 2 (Tevez pen 18, A Johnson 75)
Newcastle 1 (Gutierrez 24) Att: 46,067

Saturday, October 16

Arsenal 2 (Nasri pen 41, Chamakh 47)
Birmingham 1 (Zigic 33) Att: 60,070

Aston Villa 0
Chelsea 0 Att: 40,122

Bolton 2 (Lee 22, Klasnic 90+2)
Stoke 1 (Delap 48) Att: 22,975

Fulham 1 (Kamara 30)
Tottenham 2 (Pavlyuchenko 31, Huddlestone 63) Att: 25,615

Manchester United 2 (Hernandez 5, Nani 25)
West Bromwich 2 (Evra og 50, Tchoyi 55) Att: 75,272

Newcastle 2 (Ameobi 72, Coloccini 90+4)
Wigan 2 (N'Zogbia 22, 23) Att: 44,415

Wolverhampton 1 (Jarvis 10)
West Ham 1 (Noble pen 53) Att: 28,582

Sunday, October 17

Blackpool 2 (Harewood 78, Taylor-Fletcher 90+3)
Manchester City 3 (Tevez 67, 79, Silva 90) Att: 16,116

Everton 2 (Cahill 34, Arteta 50)
Liverpool 0 Att: 39,673

Monday, October 18

Blackburn 0
Sunderland 0 Att: 21,894

ENGLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Chelsea	8	6	1	1	23	2	19
Man City	8	5	2	1	12	5	17
Arsenal	8	4	2	2	18	10	14
Man United	8	3	5	0	18	11	14
Tottenham	8	4	2	2	10	7	14
West Brom	8	3	3	2	11	14	12
Bolton	8	2	5	1	12	12	11
Aston Villa	8	3	2	3	9	12	11
Stoke	8	3	1	4	9	11	10
Blackpool	8	3	1	4	13	18	10
Everton	8	2	3	3	8	7	9
Fulham	8	1	6	1	9	9	9
Sunderland	8	1	6	1	7	7	9
Blackburn	8	2	3	3	7	8	9
Wigan	8	2	3	3	6	15	9
Newcastle	8	2	2	4	12	12	8
Birmingham	8	1	4	3	8	12	7
Wolves	8	1	3	4	8	13	6
Liverpool	8	1	3	4	7	13	6
West Ham	8	1	3	4	6	15	6

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

LEADING GOALSCORERS

7	Carlos Tevez (Manchester City)
6	Dimitar Berbatov (Manchester United)
6	Didier Drogba (Chelsea)
6	Florent Malouda (Chelsea)
5	Darren Bent (Sunderland)

FINLAND

Sep 22: Tampere 2 Honka 1; HJK 2 Inter 2; TPS 5 Oulu 0.
Sep 24: Jaro 3 MyPa 2.
Sep 27: KuPS 1 Haka 0; Lahti 2 VPS 1; Mariehamn 3 JJK 2.
Oct 2: JJK 1 HJK 2; MyPa 2 Mariehamn 1.
Oct 3: Tampere 1 KuPS 3; Oulu 1 VPS 1; Jaro 1 TPS 3.
Oct 4: Inter 1 Haka 0; Honka 1 Lahti 2.
Oct 16: KuPS 2 Jaro 1; Haka 2 Honka 0.
Oct 17: Oulu 1 JJK 2; VPS 3 Tampere 1; Lahti 1 Mariehamn 1.
Oct 18: HJK 2 TPS 0; Inter 1 MyPa 1.

In charge...Auxerre's Frederic Sammaritano (right)

FRANCE

Fernandez celebrates

Auxerre's 4-0 win at Arles was Jean Fernandez's 500th Ligue 1 game as a coach. It was also Faruk Hadzibegic's first match as boss of Arles.

Previously in charge of second-tier Bastia, Hadzibegic replaced Michel Estevan and bottom-of-the-league Arles picked up their first point of the season at the ninth time of asking with a 0-0 draw away to Brest.

Visiting fans will be banned from Ligue 1 games between Paris Saint-Germain and Marseille this season after repeated episodes of violence at the fixtures in recent years.

GERMANY

Mainz run ends

Having equalled the eight-win start to the season of Bayern Munich (1995-96) and Kaiserslautern (2001-02), Mainz's run came to an end with a 1-0 defeat at home to Hamburg. They also lost their place at the top of the table to Borussia Dortmund.

Jens Keller's first game as caretaker coach of Stuttgart, following the sacking of Christian Gross, ended in a 2-2 draw at Schalke and *Die Roten* remain bottom of the Bundesliga.

GREECE

Bajevic resigns again

Dusan Bajevic quit as coach of AEK Athens for the third time in his career after a 3-1 loss away to Volos.

Bajevic won two titles and a Greek Cup as a player with AEK, and four championships and one cup during his three stints as coach of the club, but many supporters had never forgiven him for leaving AEK

FINLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
HJK	25	15	7	3	43	17	52
KuPS	25	14	3	8	43	35	45
TPS	25	12	6	7	43	28	42
Honka	25	12	4	9	41	33	40
Jaro	25	11	5	9	41	32	38
Inter	25	10	6	9	33	31	36
MyPa	25	7	10	8	34	37	31
Tampere	25	9	4	12	35	46	31
Haka	25	8	6	11	28	37	30
VPS	25	8	6	11	27	38	30
Mariehamn	25	7	7	11	37	41	28
JJK	25	8	3	14	33	39	27
Oulu	25	7	6	12	29	43	27
Lahti	25	5	11	9	24	34	26

26-round season (13x2); bottom team will be relegated; 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

FRANCE

Saturday, September 25

Auxerre 2 (Oliech 1, 11)
Nancy 2 (Cuvillier 17, Vahirua 36) Att: 7,664

Caen 0
Bordeaux 0 Att: 19,467

Lorient 2 (Gameiro 5, Kitambala 89)
Monaco 1 (Mbokani 26) Att: 16,021

Lyon 0
Saint-Etienne 1 (Payet 75) Att: 39,408

Marseille 2 (Taiwo 19, Gonzalez 61)
Sochaux 1 (Maurice-Belay 76) Att: 49,895

Montpellier 3 (Giroud 42, pen 48, Camara 82)
Arles-Avignon 1 (Kermorgant 61) Att: 11,044

Nice 1 (Ljuboja 25)
Rennes 2 (Dalmat 7, Montano 77) Att: 7,577

Sunday, September 26

Brest 1 (Roux 77)
Valenciennes 0 Att: 11,520

Lens 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Demont og 49, Nene 90+3) Att: 28,676

Toulouse 1 (Devaux 75)
Lille 1 (Gervinho 27) Att: 15,101

Saturday, October 2

Arles-Avignon 0
Auxerre 4 (Traore 18, Pedretti 44, Contout 58, Birsa 82) Att: 12,429

Bordeaux 1 (Ciani 26)
Lorient 0 Att: 23,944

Monaco 0
Brest 1 (Grougi 71) Att: 5,431

Nancy 2 (Andre Luiz 57, Feret 70)
Lyon 3 (Lopez 37, Briand 55, 75) Att: 17,252

Saint-Etienne 1 (Batlles 59)
Marseille 1 (Gignac 27) Att: 35,003

Sochaux 3 (Maiga 13, Brown 44, Perquis 73)
Lens 0 Att: 11,115

Valenciennes 2 (Pujol 24, Samassa 29)
Caen 1 (El Arabi 71) Att: 10,469

Sunday, October 3

Lille 3 (Sow 19, 32, Gervinho 80)
Montpellier 1 (Giroud pen 23) Att: 15,195

Paris Saint-Germain 0
Nice 0 Att: 22,595

Rennes 3 (Danze 44, Mangane 77, Marveaux pen 81)
Toulouse 1 (Sissoko 88) Att: 21,711

Saturday, October 16

Auxerre 0
Bordeaux 1 (Modeste 19) Att: 10,270

Brest 0
Arles-Avignon 0 Att: 12,406

Caen 0
Monaco 0 Att: 16,285

Marseille 1 (Remy 27)
Nancy 0 Att: 48,306

Montpellier 2 (Yangambiwa 30, Belhanda 44)
Sochaux 0 Att: 13,967

Toulouse 0
Paris Saint-Germain 2 (Sakho 11, Erdinc 56) Att: 20,437

Sunday, October 17

Lens 0
Rennes 0 Att: 30,224

Lorient 2 (Gameiro pen 13, Diarra 25)
Valenciennes 1 (Danic 4) Att: 14,541

Lyon 3 (Lopez 2, pen 56, Gourcuff 41)
Lille 1 (Sow 52) Att: 35,022

Nice 2 (Mounier 47, Ben Saada 67)
Saint-Etienne 1 (Payet pen 11) Att: 9,306

FRANCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rennes	9	5	4	0	12	4	19
Saint-Etienne	9	5	2	2	14	9	17
PSG	9	4	3	2	13	6	15
Marseille	9	4	3	2	15	10	15
Brest	9	4	3	2	7	4	15
Lille	9	3	5	1	12	8	14
Bordeaux	9	4	2	3	9	7	14
Toulouse	9	4	2	3	10	9	14
Montpellier	9	4	2	3	9	9	14
Sochaux	9	4	1	4	16	11	13
Caen	9	3	4	2	8	8	13
Nice	9	3	4	2	9	11	13
Lorient	9	3	2	4	9	10	11
Lyon	9	3	2	4	10	12	11
Valenciennes	9	2	4	3	9	10	10
Monaco	9	1	6	2	7	7	9
Auxerre	9	1	5	3	11	11	8
Nancy	9	2	2	5	9	16	8
Lens	9	1	3	5	7	17	6
Arles-Avignon	9	0	1	8	3	20	1

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

LEADING GOALSCORERS

8 Dimitri Payet (Saint-Etienne)
5 Youssef El Arabi (Caen)
5 Moussa Sow (Lille)

GERMANY

Tuesday, September 21

Hannover 4 (Fritz og 11, Ya Konan 53, Schulz 79, Abdellaoue 90+2)
Werder Bremen 1 (Frings pen 36) Att: 43,127

1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Ibisevic 1)
Bayern Munich 2 (Muller 63, Van Buyten 90+1) Att: 30,150

Mainz 2 (Holtby 72, 90)
Koln 0 Att: 20,300

Wednesday, September 22

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Bender 9, Vidal pen 90)
Eintracht Frankfurt 1 (Gekas 18) Att: 24,404

Borussia Dortmund 5 (Barrios 31, 88, Grosskreutz 38, Hummels 65, Lewandowski 75)
Kaiserslautern 0 Att: 70,100

Freiburg 1 (Cisse 69)
Schalke 2 (Rakitic 9, Huntelaar 87) Att: 24,000

Hamburg 1 (Choupo-Moting 27)
Wolfsburg 3 (Dzeko 15, Grafite 71, 78) Att: 50,231

Monchengladbach 1 (Arango 25)
St Pauli 2 (Asamoah 66, Bruns pen 71) Att: 41,080

Nurnberg 2 (Schieber 3, Pinola 90)
Stuttgart 1 (Cacau 85) Att: 36,790

Friday, September 24

Koln 1 (Podolski 17)
1899 Hoffenheim 1 (Ba 54) Att: 45,000

Saturday, September 25

Bayern Munich 1 (Svensson og 45)
Mainz 2 (Allagui 15, Szalai 77) Att: 69,000

Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Gekas 17, Chris 88)
Nurnberg 0 Att: 43,100

Schalke 2 (Huntelaar 52, Raul 87)
Monchengladbach 2 (Daems pen 15, Bradley 43) Att: 61,673

St Pauli 1 (Hennings 25)
Borussia Dortmund 3 (Grosskreutz 17, 60, Kagawa 50) Att: 24,082

Stuttgart 1 (Kuzmanovic 52)
Bayer Leverkusen 4 (Hyypia 19, Vidal 21, Balitsch 69, Sam 88) Att: 38,300

Werder Bremen 3 (Demel og 25, Hugo Almeida 28, 85)
Hamburg 2 (Van Nistelrooy 59, Pitroipa 63) Att: 36,300

Sunday, September 26

Kaiserslautern 0
Hannover 1 (Abdellaoue 33) Att: 40,115

Wolfsburg 2 (Grafite 25, 64)
Freiburg 1 (Cisse 36) Att: 26,204

Friday, October 1

Hannover 0
St Pauli 1 (Ebbers 6) Att: 49,000

Saturday, October 2

Freiburg 3 (Rosenthal 4, 11, Cisse 70)
Koln 2 (Mohamad 22, Matuschyk 50) Att: 22,100

Hamburg 2 (Kacar 69, Choupo-Moting 84)
Kaiserslautern 1 (Lakic 3) Att: 57,000

Mainz 4 (Allagui 2, Szalai 47, Luiz Gustavo og 59, Schurrle pen 74)
1899 Hoffenheim 2 (Ba 41, Sigurdsson 64) Att: 20,300

Monchengladbach 1 (Marx 65)
Wolfsburg 1 (Kahlenberg 27) Att: 40,423

Nurnberg 2 (Frantz 62, Wolf 84)
Schalke 1 (Huntelaar 74) Att: 48,548

Sunday, October 3

Bayer Leverkusen 2 (Helmes 16, Derdiyok 78)
Werder Bremen 2 (Hugo Almeida 53, Marin 62) Att: 30,210

Borussia Dortmund 2 (Barrios 51, Sahin 60)
Bayern Munich 0 Att: 80,720

Stuttgart 1 (Pogrebnyak 85)
Eintracht Frankfurt 2 (Gekas 18, Chris 68) Att: 44,000

Friday, October 15

Koln 1 (Podolski 82)
Borussia Dortmund 2 (Blaszczykowski 20, Sahin 90+1) Att: 50,000

Saturday, October 16

Bayern Munich 3 (Gomez 21, 77, 90)
Hannover 0 Att: 69,000

Mainz 0
Hamburg 1 (Guerrero 89) Att: 20,300

Schalke 2 (Edu 29, Huntelaar pen 80)
Stuttgart 2 (Gebhart 15, Harnik 74) Att: 61,673

St Pauli 3 (Asamoah 45+1, Ebbers 59, Bruns 82)
Nurnberg 2 (Ekici 48, Wolf 62) Att: 24,343

Werder Bremen 2 (Hunt 33, Hugo Almeida 73)
Freiburg 1 (Schuster 62) Att: 34,500

Wolfsburg 2 (Diego 9, Grafite 68)
Bayer Leverkusen 3 (Rolfes 72, 82, Vidal pen 74) Att: 30,000

Sunday, October 17

1899 Hoffenheim 3 (Ba 46, Anderson og 67, Salihovic pen 82)
Monchengladbach 2 (Bobadilla 12, Idrissou 90+1) Att: 30,150

Kaiserslautern 0
Eintracht Frankfurt 3 (Gekas 45, 67, Meier 83) Att: 49,780

Bye-bye...Bajevic

to coach rivals Olympiakos 14 years ago. He has been replaced by former Sevilla coach Manolo Jimenez.

After three consecutive defeats, PAOK parted company with coach Pavlos Dermitzakis and placed Makis Havos in temporary control.

HOLLAND

Wolfswinkel double

Ajax's unbeaten run of 26 league games ended with a 2-1 home defeat by Utrecht. Ricky van Wolfswinkel scored two penalties in the opening 15 minutes for the visitors.

ICELAND

First title for Breidablik

Breidablik finished above last year's champions FH Hafnarfjordur on goal difference to win the Icelandic league for the first time after drawing away to Stjarnan on the final day of the season.

IBV Vestmannaeyjar missed their chance to steal the title when they lost 4-1 at Keflavik and finished two points adrift. Breidablik will go into next season's Champions League qualifiers, while FH and IBV will be joined in the early rounds of the Europa Cup by KR Reykjavik. Breidablik's Alfred Finnbogason was named player of the year.

Penalties...Wolfswinkel

GERMANY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
B Dortmund	8	7	0	1	20	6	21
Mainz	8	7	0	1	18	8	21
B Leverkusen	8	4	3	1	18	14	15
Hoffenheim	8	4	2	2	16	12	14
Hamburg	8	4	2	2	13	11	14
St Pauli	8	4	1	3	11	10	13
Hannover	8	4	1	3	11	11	13
E Frankfurt	8	4	0	4	14	9	12
Freiburg	8	4	0	4	12	13	12
Bayern	8	3	2	3	8	8	11
Werder	8	3	2	3	13	17	11
Wolfsburg	8	3	1	4	14	14	10
Nurnberg	8	2	3	3	9	11	9
Kaiserslautern	8	2	1	5	9	16	7
M'gladbach	8	1	3	4	13	23	6
Schalke	8	1	2	5	10	16	5
Koln	8	1	2	5	8	15	5
Stuttgart	8	1	1	6	14	17	4

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated; 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

LEADING GOALSCORERS

7 Papiss Demba Cisse (Freiburg)
7 Theofanis Gekas (Eintracht Frankfurt)

GREECE

Sep 25: Atromitos 2 Panserraikos 1; Olympiakos 3 Asteras 0; Panathinaikos 2 Panionios 1.
Sep 26: Iraklis 0 Kavala 1; Larissa 1 Kerkyra 1; Aris 1 Ergotelis 0; Xanthi 1 PAOK 0; Volos 3 AEK 1.
Oct 2: Olympiakos 3 Volos 1; Asteras 1 Atromitos 1; Kavala 2 Panionios 1.
Oct 3: Kerkyra 0 Iraklis 0; Ergotelis 1 Panathinaikos 4; Panserraikos 1 Larissa 0; AEK 1 Xanthi 0; PAOK 0 Aris 1.
Oct 16: Panionios 0 Ergotelis 1; Panathinaikos 1 PAOK 0; Xanthi 0 Olympiakos 3.
Oct 17: Kerkyra 1 Kavala 1; Atromitos 2 Volos 2; Iraklis 1 Panserraikos 1; Larissa 0 Asteras 2; Aris 0 AEK 4.

GREECE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olympiakos	6	5	0	1	13	3	15
Panathinaikos	6	4	2	0	11	5	14
AEK	6	3	1	2	11	7	10
Kerkyra	6	2	3	1	7	6	9
Kavala	6	2	3	1	6	5	9
Iraklis	6	2	3	1	5	4	9
Asteras	6	2	3	1	6	6	9
Ergotelis	6	3	0	3	4	6	9
Aris	6	3	0	3	3	6	9
Volos	6	2	2	2	8	8	8
Atromitos	6	1	3	2	7	9	6
PAOK	6	1	2	3	4	6	5
Larissa	6	1	2	3	2	5	5
Xanthi	6	1	2	3	3	7	5
Panionios	6	1	1	4	4	7	4
Panserraikos	6	1	1	4	5	9	4

30-round season (15x2); bottom 3 will be relegated. Teams finishing 2nd to 5th will enter play-offs for Greece's 2nd Champions League place

HOLLAND

Sep 25: Heerenveen 2 Roda JC 2; Den Haag 3 Heracles 2; AZ 1 Utrecht 0; PSV 1 Groningen 1; Twente 2 Ajax 2.
Sep 26: Excelsior 0 Vitesse 2; NAC 2 Willem II 1; NEC 3 Feyenoord 0; VVV 1 De Graafschap 0.
Oct 1: Vitesse 0 Willem II 0.
Oct 2: NAC 2 NEC 0; Excelsior 1 Roda JC 2.
Oct 3: Ajax 1 Utrecht 2; Twente 4 Groningen 2; AZ 2 Heracles 1; De Graafschap 1 Feyenoord 1; Heerenveen 0 Den Haag 0; PSV 3 VVV 0.
Oct 16: Ajax 3 NAC 0; Utrecht 2 De Graafschap 2; Den Haag 2 Excelsior 1; VVV 0 AZ 1; Feyenoord 0 Twente 1.
Oct 17: Willem II 2 PSV 4; Groningen 1 Heerenveen 0; Roda JC 4 Vitesse 1; Heracles 3 NEC 2.

HOLLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
PSV	9	6	3	0	25	8	21
Ajax	9	6	2	1	24	9	20
Twente	9	5	4	0	16	5	19
Roda JC	9	5	3	1	17	11	18
Groningen	9	5	3	1	15	9	18
Den Haag	9	4	3	2	18	17	15
AZ	9	4	3	2	10	9	15
NAC*	9	4	2	3	11	11	13
Utrecht	9	4	1	4	14	15	13
Heerenveen	9	2	4	3	12	13	10
NEC	9	3	1	5	16	18	10
Excelsior	9	3	1	5	12	17	10
De Graafschap	9	2	3	4	12	21	9
Heracles	9	2	2	5	13	15	8
Feyenoord	9	2	2	5	12	14	8
Vitesse	9	2	2	5	9	18	8
VVV	9	2	0	7	7	15	6
Willem II	9	0	1	8	8	26	1

34-round season (17x2); bottom team will be relegated; 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs
**1pt deducted for financial mismanagement*

ICELAND

ICELAND – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Breidablik	22	13	5	4	47	23	44
FH	22	13	5	4	48	31	44
IBV	22	13	3	6	36	27	42
KR	22	11	5	6	45	31	38
Fram	22	9	5	8	35	35	32
Keflavik	22	8	6	8	30	32	30
Valur	22	7	7	8	34	41	28
Stjarnan	22	6	7	9	39	42	25
Fylkir	22	7	3	12	36	42	24
Grindavik	22	5	6	11	28	39	21
Haukar (R)	22	4	8	10	29	45	20
Selfoss (R)	22	5	2	15	32	51	17

***Promoted:** Vikingur, Thor*

ISRAEL

Regular season

Sep 25: Hapoel Tel Aviv 2 Kiryat Shmona 4; Beitar 5 Be'er Sheva 1; Bnei Sakhnin 2 Maccabi Petah Tikva 3; Hapoel Petah Tikva 1 Netanya 1; Hapoel Haifa 1 Ashkelon 2; Bnei Yehuda 2 Maccabi Haifa 3.
Sep 26: Ramat Gan 3 Acre 2.
Sep 27: Ashdod 1 Maccabi Tel Aviv 2.
Oct 2: Ashkelon 0 Bnei Yehuda 0; Maccabi Tel Aviv 2 Hapoel Petah Tikva 1; Be'er Sheva 1 Bnei Sakhnin 0; Maccabi Petah Tikva 2 Ashdod 2; Acre 2 Hapoel Haifa 1; Netanya 1 Hapoel Tel Aviv 3.
Oct 3: Maccabi Haifa 3 Beitar 3.
Oct 4: Kiryat Shmona 1 Ramat Gan 0.
Oct 16: Ashkelon 0 Acre 0; Hapoel Haifa 1 Kiryat Shmona 4; Ramat Gan 0 Netanya 1; Hapoel Petah Tikva 1 Maccabi Petah Tikva 4; Bnei Sakhnin 1 Maccabi Haifa 2; Hapoel Tel Aviv 1 Maccabi Tel Aviv 0.
Oct 17: Ashdod 3 Be'er Sheva 3.
Oct 18: Bnei Yehuda 2 Beitar 1.

ISRAEL – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Kiryat Shmona	6	5	1	0	16	6	16
M Haifa	6	4	2	0	11	7	14
M Tel Aviv	6	4	0	2	9	4	12
Netanya	6	3	2	1	10	6	11
H Tel Aviv	6	3	1	2	13	9	10
M Petah Tikva	6	3	1	2	11	8	10
H Haifa	6	3	0	3	8	9	9
Ashkelon	6	2	3	1	7	8	9
Bnei Yehuda	6	2	2	2	5	6	8
Be'er Sheva	6	2	2	2	7	10	8
Acre	6	1	3	2	9	10	6
Ashdod	6	1	3	2	10	12	6
Beitar	6	1	1	4	11	13	4
H Petah Tikva	6	0	2	4	7	15	2
Ramat Gan*	6	1	2	3	5	7	1
Bnei Sakhnin	6	0	1	5	4	13	1

30-round regular season (15x2) – top 6 will enter championship play-offs, 7th to 10th will enter "placement" play-offs, bottom 6 will enter relegation play-offs (2 teams will go down)
**4pts deducted for contract irregularities*

ITALY

Wednesday, September 22

Bologna 2 (Gimenez 16, Di Vaio 90)
Udinese 1 (Di Natale 9) Att: 14,220

Brescia 2 (Hetemaj 13, Caracciolo pen 65)
Roma 1 (Borriello 83) Att: 12,000

Cagliari 0
Sampdoria 0 Att: 16,000

Catania 2 (Silvestre 23, Lopez 58)
Cesena 0 Att: 11,418

Genoa 1 (Mesto 18)
Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 11) Att: 23,101

Internazionale 4 (Milito 27, 86, Eto'o pen 50, pen 63)
Bari 0 Att: 61,093

Lazio 1 (Floccari 81)
Milan 1 (Ibrahimovic 66) Att: 41,246

Lecce 1 (Jeda pen 31)
Parma 1 (Crespo 69) Att: 7,957

Napoli 1 (Cannavaro 9)
Chievo 3 (Pellissier 22, 74, Fernandes 58) Att: 46,037

Thursday, September 23

Juventus 1 (Iaquinta 87)
Palermo 3 (Pastore 2, Ilicic 62, Bovo 85) Att: 20,607

Saturday, September 25

Milan 1 (Ibrahimovic 49)
Genoa 0 Att: 41,505

Roma 1 (Vucinic 90+2)
Internazionale 0 Att: 38,000

Sunday, September 26

Bari 2 (Rivas 16, Barreto pen 55)
Brescia 1 (Kone 30) Att: 16,833

Catania 1 (Britos og 65)
Bologna 1 (Di Vaio 40) Att: 10,913

Cesena 1 (Parolo 48)
Napoli 4 (Lavezzi 72, Hamsik pen 81, Cavani 86, 90+2) Att: 16,250

Chievo 0
Lazio 1 (Zarate 69) Att: 8,500

Fiorentina 2 (Ljajic pen 61, De Silvestri 76)
Parma 0 Att: 21,126

Juventus 4 (Krasic 13, 34, 70, Bonucci 56)
Cagliari 2 (Matri 20, 80) Att: 19,394

Palermo 2 (Pinilla 52, Maccarone 90+3)
Lecce 2 (Giacomazzi 8, Corvia 46) Att: 22,378

Sampdoria 0
Udinese 0 Att: 21,478

Saturday, October 2

Parma 0
Milan 1 (Pirlo 25) Att: 19,615

Udinese 1 (Benatia 90+3)
Cesena 0 Att: 14,000

Sunday, October 3

Bologna 1 (Britos 64)
Sampdoria 1 (Portanova og 45+1) Att: 15,431

Chievo 0
Cagliari 0 Att: 7,800

Fiorentina 1 (Gilardino 58)
Palermo 2 (Ilicic 20, Pastore 37) Att: 22,795

Genoa 2 (Palacio 36, Toni 90+5)
Bari 1 (Barreto pen 52) Att: 22,358

Internazionale 0
Juventus 0 Att: 78,883

Lazio 1 (Mauri 45)
Brescia 0 Att: 29,555

Lecce 1 (Corvia 36)
Catania 0 Att: 7,270

Napoli 2 (Hamsik 72, Juan og 83)
Roma 0 Att: 44,782

Saturday, October 16

Milan 3 (Alexandre Pato 18, 30, Robinho 90+3)
Chievo 1 (Ibrahimovic og 70) Att: 49,170

Roma 2 (Borriello 34, Brighi 53)
Genoa 1 (Rudolf 78) Att: 30,000

Sunday, October 17

Bari 0
Lazio 2 (Hernanes 52, Floccari 61) Att: 22,779

Brescia 0
Udinese 1 (Corradi 80) Att: 5,397

Cagliari 0
Internazionale 1 (Eto'o 39) Att: 22,000

Catania 1 (Gomez 69)
Napoli 1 (Cavani 39) Att: 13,136

Cesena 1 (Bogdani 17)
Parma 1 (Zaccardo 28) Att: 14,292

Juventus 4 (Aquilani 26, Felipe Melo pen 34, Quagliarella 44, Del Piero 82)
Lecce 0 Att: 23,373

Equaliser...Del Piero's 178th Serie A goal

ITALY

Del Piero equals record

Alessandro Del Piero's goal in Juventus' 4-0 victory over Lecce was his 178th in Serie A – equalling the record set by Giampiero Boniperti, who also played for Juventus, between 1946 to 1961.

It took Del Piero 429 appearances to reach that mark, compared to 443 games for Boniperti.

ROMANIA

Too good an offer

Marius Lacatus has become coach of Steaua Bucharest for the third time, taking over following the departure of Ilie Dumitrescu.

Lacatus, who is the most successful player in the club's history with 10 league titles, quit as coach of Vaslui in the summer and moved to Spain, but said: "When I receive an offer like this from Steaua, I cannot refuse."

SCOTLAND

Hibs' new man

Hibernian, who were without a league win since the opening day of the season, parted company with manager John Hughes after a 2-0 loss at St Johnstone. He is replaced by Newcastle United's assistant boss Colin Calderwood.

Palermo 4 (Pastore 17, Ilicic 24, Pinilla 47, Bacinovic 83)
Bologna 1 (Di Vaio 66) Att: 23,587

Sampdoria 2 (Ziegler 80, Cassano 82)
Fiorentina 1 (Marchionni 6) Att: 22,738

ITALY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lazio	7	5	1	1	10	5	16
Milan	7	4	2	1	11	5	14
Inter	7	4	2	1	9	3	14
Napoli	7	3	3	1	13	9	12
Juventus	7	3	2	2	16	9	11
Palermo	7	3	2	2	14	10	11
Sampdoria	7	2	4	1	9	7	10
Chievo	7	3	1	3	9	8	10
Catania	7	2	3	2	8	7	9
Brescia	7	3	0	4	7	9	9
Genoa	7	2	2	3	7	9	8
Cesena	7	2	2	3	5	8	8
Roma	7	2	2	3	7	12	8
Bari	7	2	2	3	6	11	8
Lecce	7	2	2	3	5	12	8
Cagliari	7	1	4	2	7	6	7
Bologna	7	1	4	2	8	12	7
Udinese	7	2	1	4	4	9	7
Parma	7	1	3	3	6	8	6
Fiorentina	7	1	2	4	7	9	5

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

LEADING GOALSCORERS
6 Edinson Cavani (Napoli)
6 Samuel Eto'o (Internazionale)
5 Marco Di Vaio (Bologna)

NORWAY

Sep 25: Lillestrom 1 Molde 1.
Sep 26: Aalesund 2 Haugesund 1; Odd Grenland 5 Sandefjord 0; Stromsgodset 1 Rosenborg 1; Tromso 1 Viking 0; Kongsvinger 1 Stabaek 2; Valerenga 1 Brann 0.
Sep 27: Honefoss 0 Start 0.
Oct 2: Brann 3 Honefoss 2.
Oct 3: Start 1 Tromso 1; Stabaek 2 Aalesund 1; Sandefjord 0 Lillestrom 1; Haugesund 3 Odd Grenland 0; Molde 2 Kongsvinger 0; Rosenborg 3 Valerenga 1.
Oct 4: Viking 3 Stromsgodset 1.
Oct 16: Valerenga 4 Stromsgodset 1.
Oct 17: Lillestrom 3 Brann 2; Kongsvinger 3 Start 3; Haugesund 2 Stabaek 1; Odd Grenland 2 Viking 1; Aalesund 2 Sandefjord 2; Honefoss 0 Rosenborg 2.
Oct 18: Tromso 0 Molde 1.

NORWAY	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rosenborg	27	18	9	0	55	22	63
Valerenga	27	17	4	6	63	32	55
Tromso	27	13	8	6	34	25	47
Haugesund	27	11	8	8	46	34	41
Odd Grenland	27	11	8	8	45	39	41
Aalesund	27	12	4	11	38	33	40
Lillestrom	27	9	12	6	45	36	39
Start	27	10	8	9	50	53	38
Viking	27	9	10	8	43	36	37
Stromsgodset	27	11	4	12	41	52	37
Stabaek	27	10	6	11	42	42	36
Molde	27	8	9	10	39	44	33
Brann	27	7	9	11	43	45	30
Honefoss	27	6	6	15	23	51	24
Kongsvinger	27	4	7	16	25	52	19
Sandefjord	27	1	6	20	18	54	9

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated; 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

POLAND

Sep 24: Korona 2 Slask 1; Legia 2 Lech 1.
Sep 25: Lechia 5 Gornik 1; Polonia Warsaw 2 Polonia Bytom 2; Cracovia 2 Arka 0; Ruch 1 Widzew 1.
Sep 26: Belchatow 1 Wisla 1; Jagiellonia 2 Zaglebie 0.
Oct 1: Polonia Bytom 2 Widzew 2; Wisla 0 Slask 0.
Oct 2: Arka 0 Polonia Warsaw 0; Zaglebie 0 Cracovia 0; Gornik 0 Jagiellonia 1; Legia 0 Lechia 3.
Oct 3: Belchatow 1 Lech 0; Ruch 0 Korona 1.
Oct 15: Widzew 0 Legia 1.
Oct 16: Slask 2 Polonia Warsaw 2; Jagiellonia 3 Polonia Bytom 0; Lech 0 Zaglebie 1; Korona 3 Belchatow 1.
Oct 17: Cracovia 2 Ruch 3; Gornik 1 Wisla 0; Lechia 1 Arka 0.

POLAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jagiellonia	9	7	1	1	15	4	22
Korona	9	6	2	1	15	8	20
Lechia	9	5	2	2	14	5	17
Belchatow	9	5	1	3	12	10	16
Gornik	9	5	0	4	9	13	15
Polonia W	8	3	4	1	12	8	13
Wisla	9	3	3	3	8	9	12
Legia	9	4	0	5	7	13	12
Widzew	9	2	5	2	12	10	11
Ruch	9	3	2	4	9	9	11
Zaglebie	9	3	2	4	7	10	11
Arka	9	2	3	4	4	6	9
Polonia B	9	2	3	4	9	13	9
Lech	8	2	2	4	9	8	8
Slask	9	1	3	5	9	16	6
Cracovia	9	1	1	7	9	18	4

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

PORTUGAL

Sep 24: Braga 3 Naval 1.
Sep 25: Academica 3 Guimaraes 1; Maritimo 0 Benfica 1; Porto 2 Olhanense 0.
Sep 26: Portimonense 1 Beira Mar 0; Uniao Leiria 1 Rio Ave 0; Sporting 1 Nacional 1.
Sep 27: Setubal 1 Pacos Ferreira 0.
Oct 1: Uniao Leiria 2 Academica 1.
Oct 2: Olhanense 3 Setubal 1.
Oct 3: Naval 1 Pacos Ferreira 2; Nacional 3 Portimonense 1; Rio Ave 0 Maritimo 0; Benfica 1 Braga 0.
Oct 4: Beira Mar 1 Sporting 1; Guimaraes 1 Porto 1.

PORTUGAL	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Porto	7	6	1	0	14	3	19
Benfica	7	4	0	3	10	6	12
Olhanense	7	3	3	1	7	4	12
Guimaraes	7	3	3	1	8	6	12
Academica	7	3	2	2	13	9	11
Braga	7	3	2	2	11	8	11
Uniao Leiria	7	3	2	2	5	4	11
P Ferreira	7	2	4	1	8	7	10
Nacional	7	3	1	3	9	10	10
Sporting	7	2	3	2	6	6	9
Setubal	7	2	3	2	3	6	9
Beira Mar	7	1	4	2	4	7	7
Portimonense	7	2	1	4	8	12	7
Naval	7	1	1	5	4	12	4
Maritimo	7	0	3	4	2	6	3
Rio Ave	7	0	3	4	3	9	3

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND

Sep 20: Bray 2 Dundalk 0.
Sep 21: Sligo 1 Bohemians 1.
Sep 24: St Patrick's 1 Dundalk 2; Bray 2 UCD 2; Drogheda 0 Fingal 4; Shamrock 3 Galway 0.
Oct 1: UCD 3 Shamrock 2; Bohemians 0 Bray 0; Dundalk 3 Galway 0.
Oct 2: Fingal 2 St Patrick's 2; Sligo 2 Drogheda 1.
Oct 5: Bohemians 1 Shamrock 0; Drogheda 0 St Patrick's 3; Sligo 2 Bray 1.
Oct 9: St Patrick's 0 Bohemians 1; Dundalk 2 Sligo 4; Shamrock 1 Fingal 2; Galway 1 UCD 4.
Oct 10: Bray 1 Drogheda 1.
Oct 15: Fingal 3 Galway 1; UCD 0 Dundalk 2.

REPUBLIC OF IRELAND	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bohemians	34	18	10	6	45	25	64
Shamrock	34	18	9	7	53	32	63
Sligo	34	15	12	7	58	35	57
Fingal	34	14	14	6	54	37	56
St Patrick's	34	15	9	10	53	32	54
Dundalk	34	14	6	14	45	45	48
UCD	34	11	8	15	45	48	41
Galway	34	8	10	16	32	54	34
Bray	34	6	8	20	33	68	26
Drogheda	34	4	8	22	27	69	20

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated; 2nd & 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

ROMANIA

Sep 24: Univ Cluj 1 CFR 1.
Sep 25: Vaslui 1 Gloria 0.
Sep 26: Sportul 0 Astra 1; Otelul 1 Steaua 0; Pandurii 0 Timisoara 1; Rapid 7 Victoria 1.
Sep 27: Tirgu-Mures 1 Univ Craiova 4; Brasov 0 Gaz Metan 0; Urziceni 1 Dinamo 0.
Oct 1: Astra 2 Pandurii 0; Univ Craiova 3 Univ Cluj 0; Dinamo 1 Otelul 2.
Oct 2: Gloria 0 Urziceni 0; Timisoara 2 Rapid 1.
Oct 3: Gaz Metan 0 Vaslui 0; CFR 4 Brasov 0; Steaua 4 Sportul 2.
Oct 4: Victoria 0 Tirgu-Mures 0.
Oct 15: Urziceni 0 Gaz Metan 1; Rapid 3 Astra 0; Vaslui 5 CFR 3.
Oct 16: Tirgu-Mures 2 Timisoara 3; Pandurii 1 Sportul 0.
Oct 17: Otelul 2 Gloria 1; Dinamo 2 Steaua 1.
Oct 18: Univ Cluj 2 Victoria 3; Brasov 0 Univ Craiova 3.

ROMANIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Otelul	11	8	1	2	15	9	25
Timisoara	11	6	5	0	20	14	23
Rapid	11	6	3	2	21	7	21
Gaz Metan	11	5	4	2	14	7	19
Steaua	11	5	3	3	17	12	18
Vaslui	11	5	3	3	17	14	18
Dinamo	11	5	2	4	27	22	17
Univ Craiova	11	4	4	3	17	11	16
Univ Cluj	11	4	2	5	16	21	14
Urziceni	11	3	4	4	6	9	13
CFR	11	3	3	5	17	19	12
Astra	11	2	6	3	12	15	12
Victoria	11	3	3	5	14	21	12
Brasov	11	2	5	4	9	15	11
Tirgu-Mures	11	3	2	6	11	20	11
Gloria	11	2	4	5	13	15	10
Pandurii	11	2	3	6	7	15	9
Sportul	11	2	1	8	15	22	7

34-round season (17x2); bottom 4 will be relegated

RUSSIA

Sep 24: Spartak Moscow 2 Amkar 2.
Sep 25: Zenit 6 Saturn 1; Rubin 1 Alania 0.
Sep 26: Tom 0 CSKA 3; Dynamo 0 Spartak Nalchik 3; Rostov 0 Sibir 1; Lokomotiv 2 Terek 1.
Sep 27: Krylia Sovetov 3 Anzhi 0.
Oct 2: Amkar 0 Dynamo 1; Alania 2 Krylia Sovetov 3; Terek 1 Tom 0.
Oct 3: Sibir 2 Rubin 2; CSKA 2 Rostov 0; Anzhi 0 Spartak Moscow 1; Spartak Nalchik 2 Zenit 3; Saturn 0 Lokomotiv 1.
Oct 15: Spartak Moscow 3 Alania 0.
Oct 16: Tom 2 Saturn 2; Zenit 2 Amkar 0; Rubin 2 Rostov 1.
Oct 17: Terek 0 CSKA 3; Dynamo 4 Anzhi 0; Krylia Sovetov 1 Sibir 1; Lokomotiv 1 Spartak Nalchik 0.

RUSSIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zenit	22	17	5	0	42	10	56
Rubin	24	14	8	2	30	11	50
CSKA	22	15	3	4	39	15	48
Spartak M	23	11	6	6	37	27	39
Spartak N	24	10	6	8	32	28	36
Lokomotiv	24	10	6	8	28	26	36
Rostov	24	10	3	11	22	29	33
Dynamo	23	8	8	7	30	25	32
Terek	24	8	7	9	24	24	31
Tom	24	7	6	11	28	38	27
Saturn	24	6	7	11	20	31	25
Krylia Sovetov	24	5	8	11	22	33	23
Anzhi	24	6	5	13	18	31	23
Alania	24	6	5	13	21	35	23
Amkar	24	6	4	14	16	29	22
Sibir	24	4	5	15	29	46	17

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SCOTLAND

Regular season

Sep 25: Dundee United 1 St Johnstone 0; Hamilton 2 Kilmarnock 2; Celtic 2 Hibernian 1; St Mirren 1 Inverness 2; Hearts 0 Motherwell 2.
Sep 26: Aberdeen 2 Rangers 3.
Oct 2: Hearts 1 Rangers 2; Inverness 2 Aberdeen 0; Motherwell 3 St Mirren 1; St Johnstone 2 Hibernian 0; Kilmarnock 1 Dundee United 2; Celtic 3 Hamilton 1.
Oct 16: Aberdeen 0 Hearts 1; Hibernian 2 Kilmarnock 1; Inverness 1 St Johnstone 1; Rangers 4 Motherwell 1; St Mirren 2 Hamilton 2.
Oct 17: Dundee United 1 Celtic 2.

SCOTLAND – REGULAR	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Rangers	8	8	0	0	22	7	24
Celtic	8	8	0	0	18	4	24
Motherwell	8	4	1	3	12	10	13
Inverness	8	3	2	3	11	8	11
Hearts	8	3	2	3	11	10	11
Dundee Utd	8	3	2	3	9	14	11
St Johnstone	8	2	2	4	7	9	8
Hibernian	8	2	2	4	8	13	8
Aberdeen	8	2	1	5	9	11	7
Kilmarnock	8	2	1	5	9	12	7
Hamilton	8	1	3	4	8	18	6
St Mirren	8	1	2	5	8	16	5

33-round regular season (11x3) – top 6 will form championship group, bottom 6 will form relegation group (1 will be relegated)

New boss...Calderwood

SERBIA

Rare loss for Partizan

Reigning champions Partizan Belgrade suffered their first league defeat in 40 games with a 2-0 defeat at third-place Vojvodina Novi Sad.

In a bad tempered affair, four red cards were handed out, two to each team, as Partizan were beaten in the league for the first time since May 2009.

SPAIN

Sevilla seek change

Sevilla sacked coach Antonio Alvarez and replaced him with Gregorio Manzano following their 2-0 defeat at Hercules.

The loss was the Andalusian club's first in the league this season but they have suffered major disappointments in the Spanish Super Cup – going down 5-3 on aggregate to Barcelona after leading 3-1 from the first leg – and in Europe, where they went out of the Champions League to Braga at the play-off stage.

Meanwhile, despite all his success with Porto, Chelsea and Internazionale, Real Madrid's 6-1 win against Deportivo La Coruna was the first time a Jose Mourinho side had scored six goals in a league game since Leiria beat Salgueiros 7-0 in 2001.

New man...Manzano

SERBIA

Sep 24: Partizan 0 Spartak 0.
Sep 25: Indjija 0 BSK 0; Metalac 0 Smederevo 3; Javor 0 Jagodina 0.
Sep 26: Sloboda Sevojno 0 Vojvodina 0; OFK 0 Rad 1; Cukaricki 0 Red Star 1; Hajduk 1 Borac 1.
Oct 2: Smederevo 0 Sloboda Sevojno 0; Borac 1 OFK 1; Spartak 1 Hajduk 0; Jagodina 1 Cukaricki 1; BSK 1 Javor 0.
Oct 3: Rad 2 Indjija 0; Vojvodina 2 Partizan 0; Red Star 2 Metalac 0.
Oct 15: Partizan 5 Smederevo 3.
Oct 16: OFK 2 Spartak 0; Metalac 1 Jagodina 2; Cukaricki 0 BSK 0; Indjija 1 Javor 1.
Oct 17: Rad 3 Borac 1; Hajduk 0 Vojvodina 1; Sloboda Sevojno 0 Red Star 3.

SERBIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Red Star	8	7	1	0	13	2	22
Partizan	8	6	1	1	16	6	19
Vojvodina	8	5	3	0	10	1	18
Rad	8	5	2	1	11	4	17
Spartak	8	3	4	1	7	5	13
OFK	8	4	1	3	8	7	13
Jagodina	8	3	3	2	7	6	12
S Sevojno	8	2	5	1	5	6	11
Smederevo	8	2	4	2	9	7	10
Borac	8	2	4	2	6	8	10
Indjija	8	2	2	4	8	9	8
BSK	8	1	4	3	4	9	7
Javor	8	0	5	3	2	6	5
Metalac	8	0	2	6	2	11	2
Cukaricki	8	0	2	6	1	13	2
Hajduk	8	0	1	7	4	13	1

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SLOVAKIA

Sep 24: Zilina 0 DAC 0; Nitra 1 Spartak 0.
Sep 26: Dukla 3 Tatran 0; Slovan 6 Dubnica 1; Ruzomberok 1 Senica 2; Zlate Moravce 4 Kosice 1.
Oct 1: Dubnica 1 Dukla 0.
Oct 2: Kosice 0 Zilina 4; DAC 2 Slovan 1; Senica 0 Zlate Moravce 1; Tatran 1 Nitra 2; Spartak 2 Ruzomberok 0.
Oct 15: Zlate Moravce 0 Zilina 4.
Oct 16: Kosice 1 Slovan 2; Tatran 1 Ruzomberok 1; Dubnica 1 Nitra 1; DAC 0 Dukla 0; Senica 1 Spartak 2.

SLOVAKIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Zilina	12	7	5	0	27	9	26
Spartak	12	6	4	2	17	7	22
Senica	12	7	1	4	14	12	22
Slovan	12	6	2	4	25	13	20
Zlate Moravce	12	5	4	3	14	14	19
Ruzomberok	12	5	3	4	11	12	18
Nitra	12	5	3	4	13	17	18
Dukla	12	4	4	4	11	8	16
DAC	12	3	4	5	10	14	13
Dubnica	12	3	2	7	12	25	11
Tatran	12	1	3	8	8	17	6
Kosice	12	1	3	8	6	20	6

33-round season (11x3); bottom team will be relegated

SLOVENIA

Sep 22: Primorje 3 Koper 1; Triglav 2 Maribor 2; Rudar 1 Olimpija 1; Nafta 3 Gorica 0; Domzale 1 Celje 0.
Sep 25: Celje 1 Triglav 1; Koper 2 Domzale 0; Olimpija 0 Gorica 0; Maribor 3 Rudar 1.
Sep 26: Primorje 4 Nafta 2.
Sep 29: Olimpija 0 Maribor 1.
Oct 2: Domzale 4 Primorje 1; Rudar 3 Celje 2; Gorica 0 Maribor 2; Nafta 2 Olimpija 3.
Oct 3: Triglav 0 Koper 0.
Oct 9: Domzale 0 Maribor 1.
Oct 10: Primorje 2 Celje 0.
Oct 16: Celje 1 Gorica 0; Domzale 1 Nafta 1; Koper 2 Rudar 1; Maribor 0 Olimpija 0.

SLOVENIA	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Maribor	13	9	4	0	24	6	31
Domzale	13	8	2	3	17	8	26
Nafta	13	7	2	4	27	21	23
Koper	13	5	2	6	15	17	17
Primorje	12	4	3	5	23	22	15
Gorica	13	4	3	6	14	20	15
Celje	13	3	4	6	18	21	13
Rudar	13	3	4	6	17	23	13
Olimpija	13	2	5	6	15	19	11
Triglav	12	2	5	5	11	24	11

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated; 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

SPAIN

Tuesday, September 21

Athletic Bilbao 3 (David Lopez 44, San Jose pen 62, Inigo Perez 90)
Mallorca 0 Att: 35,000

Osasuna 3 (Pandiani 38, Camunas 42, Aranda 75)
Real Sociedad 1 (Tamudo 16) Att: 18,715

Real Madrid 3 (Cristiano Ronaldo pen 28, Higuain 79, Benzema 87)
Espanyol 0 Att: 70,000

Wednesday, September 22

Almeria 0
Levante 1 (Sergio 39) Att: 9,900

Barcelona 1 (Villa 49)
Sporting Gijon 0 Att: 66,947

Valencia 1 (Aduriz 83)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Simao 18) Att: 50,000

Zaragoza 0
Hercules 0 Att: 18,000

Thursday, September 23

Getafe 0
Malaga 2 (Rondon 54, Apono pen 62) Att: 11,000

Sevilla 1 (Negredo pen 13)
Racing Santander 1 (Pinillos 54) Att: 30,000

Villarreal 1 (Nilmar 34)
Deportivo La Coruna 0 Att: 16,000

Saturday, September 25

Athletic Bilbao 1 (Gabilondo 89)
Barcelona 3 (Keita 55, Xavi 74, Busquets 90+1) Att: 36,000

Levante 0
Real Madrid 0 Att: 18,326

Sporting Gijon 0
Valencia 2 (Topal 7, Soldado 10) Att: 21,000

Sunday, September 26

Atletico Madrid 1 (Diego Costa 20)
Zaragoza 0 Att: 35,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Almeria 2 (Uche 5, 19) Att: 14,000

Espanyol 1 (Alvaro 25)
Osasuna 0 Att: 26,820

Hercules 2 (Trezeguet pen 21, 38)
Sevilla 0 Att: 20,000

Mallorca 2 (Cavenaghi 7, 62)
Real Sociedad 0 Att: 14,000

Racing Santander 0
Getafe 1 (Victor Sanchez 16) Att: 13,077

Monday, September 27

Malaga 2 (Eliseu 4, Rondon 29)
Villarreal 3 (Cazorla 21, 33, Rossi 24) Att: 25,000

Saturday, October 2

Real Sociedad 1 (Forlin og 85)
Espanyol 0 Att: 25,000

Valencia 2 (Aduriz 11, Vicente 90+1)
Athletic Bilbao 1 (Gabilondo 90+3) Att: 38,395

Zaragoza 2 (Sinama-Pongolle 56, 61)
Sporting Gijon 2 (Obradovic og 33, Diego Castro pen 49) Att: 23,000

Sunday, October 3

Almeria 1 (Uche 76)
Malaga 1 (Owusu-Abeyie 50) Att: 11,400

Barcelona 1 (Messi 21)
Mallorca 1 (Nsue 42) Att: 79,085

Getafe 3 (Parejo 21, Manu 43, Miku 82)
Hercules 0 Att: 11,000

Osasuna 1 (Pandiani 72)
Levante 1 (Sergio 79) Att: 11,500

Real Madrid 6 (Cristiano Ronaldo 4, 89, Ozil 24, Di Maria 34, Higuain 53, Ze Castro og 60)
Deportivo La Coruna 1 (Juan Rodriguez 78) Att: 67,000

Sevilla 3 (Negredo 29, Perotti 35, Kanoute 52)
Atletico Madrid 1 (Diego Costa 58) Att: 40,000

Villarreal 2 (Nilmar 8, Rossi 13)
Racing Santander 0 Att: 19,000

Saturday, October 16

Atletico Madrid 2 (Codina og 38, Diego Costa 73)
Getafe 0 Att: 54,000

Barcelona 2 (Iniesta 47, Puyol 63)
Valencia 1 (Pablo 38) Att: 87,995

Malaga 1 (Stadsgaard 55)
Real Madrid 4 (Higuain 30, 65, Cristiano Ronaldo 44, pen 50) Att: 30,000

Sunday, October 17

Athletic Bilbao 2 (Iraola 11, Llorente 23)
Zaragoza 1 (Braulio 90+3) Att: 30,000

Deportivo La Coruna 0
Osasuna 0 Att: 12,000

Levante 2 (Del Horno 60, Caicedo 65)
Real Sociedad 1 (Sarpong 79) Att: 11,200

Mallorca 0
Espanyol 1 (Luis Garcia pen 32) Att: 13,000

Racing Santander 1 (Munitis 33)
Almeria 0 Att: 14,005

Sporting Gijon 2 (Sangoy 6, Diego Castro 51)
Sevilla 0 Att: 20,000

Monday, October 18

Hercules 2 (Valdez 26, Trezeguet 40)
Villarreal 2 (Capdevila 29, Borja Valero 63) Att: 20,000

SPAIN	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Real Madrid	7	5	2	0	16	3	17
Villarreal	7	5	1	1	14	6	16
Barcelona	7	5	1	1	12	6	16
Valencia	7	5	1	1	12	6	16
At Madrid	7	4	1	2	12	7	13
Espanyol	7	4	0	3	6	9	12
Sevilla	7	3	2	2	10	8	11
Ath Bilbao	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Getafe	7	3	1	3	11	10	10
Hercules	7	2	2	3	7	8	8
Mallorca	7	2	2	3	5	7	8
Sporting Gijon	7	2	2	3	8	11	8
Levante	7	2	2	3	7	12	8
Malaga	7	2	1	4	13	16	7
R Sociedad	7	2	1	4	7	11	7
R Santander	7	2	1	4	4	8	7
Almeria	7	1	3	3	5	6	6
Osasuna	7	1	3	3	4	6	6
Dep Coruna	7	0	4	3	3	11	4
Zaragoza	7	0	3	4	6	12	3

38-round season (19x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

LEADING GOALSCORERS

6 Cristiano Ronaldo (Real Madrid)
5 Nilmar (Villarreal)
4 Gonzalo Higuain (Real Madrid)
4 Fernando Llorente (Athletic Bilbao)
4 Giuseppe Rossi (Villarreal)
4 David Trezeguet (Hercules)

SWEDEN

Sep 22: Elfsborg 1 IFK 1; Orebro 3 Gefle 1; GAIS 1 Halmstads 1; AIK 0 Kalmar 1.
Sep 26: Brommapojkarna 2 Elfsborg 2; Malmo 2 IFK 1.
Sep 27: AIK 2 Helsingborgs 3; Gefle 1 Halmstads 2; Mjallby 3 Djurgardens 0.
Sep 28: Atvidabergs 3 Trelleborgs 1; Orebro 1 Kalmar 0.
Sep 29: GAIS 2 Hacken 1.
Oct 2: Helsingborgs 0 GAIS 1.
Oct 3: IFK 0 Mjallby 0; Elfsborg 4 Atvidabergs 1; Halmstads 2 Brommapojkarna 0; Djurgardens 2 AIK 1; Kalmar 1 Gefle 1; Trelleborgs 0 Malmo 3; Hacken 2 Orebro 1.
Oct 16: AIK 2 Gefle 0.
Oct 17: Atvidabergs 0 Hacken 0; Mjallby 2 Halmstads 0; Trelleborgs 3 Djurgardens 1; Brommapojkarna 1 IFK 2.
Oct 18: Elfsborg 1 Helsingborgs 3; Malmo 0 Kalmar 1.

ARGENTINA

Estudiantes slip

Estudiantes' lead at the top of the table was cut to three points after they were held to a 1-1 draw at Colon. Gaston Fernandez rescued a point from the penalty spot after Esteban Fuertes had given the hosts an early advantage.

Their nearest challengers, Velez Sarsfield and Arsenal Sarandi, closed the gap with victories over Quilmes and Gimnasia respectively.

Meanwhile, in his first game in charge of Independiente, coach Antonio Mohamed – who replaced Daniel Garnero – helped extend the club's unbeaten run against arch-rivals Racing to 11 games with a 1-0 win in the Avellaneda derby.

The only goal of the game was scored by 20-year-old Paraguayan defender Cristian Baez in only his third appearance for the club.

Leading the way...Mohamed

Gimnasia coach Diego Cocca resigned after his side lost 2-0 away to city rivals Estudiantes in the La Plata derby. A reported 850 armed police officers were present inside the Estadio Centenario for the game – even though visiting supporters were banned. Pablo Morant took temporary control of first-team duties at Gimnasia.

BOLIVIA

Universitario march on

Universitario reached the last 16 of the Copa Sudamericana for the first time as they eliminated Paraguayan giants Cerro Porteno with a 2-2 draw in Asuncion.

Roberto Galindo, who scored the only goal in the first leg, and Damian Cirillo were on target for the Bolivians at the Estadio Defensores del Chaco.

SWEDEN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Malmo	27	18	4	5	49	24	58
Helsingborgs	27	18	4	5	42	24	58
Orebro	26	14	3	9	36	27	45
Elfsborg	27	11	10	6	50	34	43
IFK	27	10	9	8	38	23	39
Mjallby	27	10	9	8	33	25	39
Kalmar	27	10	8	9	34	34	38
Djurgardens	27	11	5	11	29	34	38
Trelleborgs	27	10	5	12	33	40	35
Hacken	27	9	7	11	32	37	34
GAIS	26	8	8	10	23	29	32
Halmstads	27	9	5	13	26	36	32
AIK	27	8	4	15	24	34	28
Atvidabergs	27	7	7	13	30	45	28
Gefle	27	6	6	15	28	42	24
Bromm'karna	27	6	6	15	19	38	24

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated; 3rd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

SWITZERLAND

Sep 22: St Gallen 1 Young Boys 2; Basle 2 Grasshopper 2.
Sep 23: Sion 1 Xamax 2; Bellinzona 2 Thun 2.
Sep 25: Zurich 1 Basle 4; St Gallen 1 Lucerne 2.
Sep 26: Sion 1 Bellinzona 1; Young Boys 2 Thun 2.
Sep 27: Xamax 1 Grasshopper 1.
Oct 1: Bellinzona 1 St Gallen 3.
Oct 2: Thun 1 Xamax 2.
Oct 3: Basle 1 Sion 1; Lucerne 2 Young Boys 0; Grasshopper 1 Zurich 2.

SWITZERLAND

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Lucerne	10	7	2	1	29	11	23
Basle	11	5	4	2	23	16	19
Zurich	10	5	2	3	20	17	17
Sion	10	3	5	2	14	11	14
Thun	11	2	7	2	18	17	13
Young Boys	11	3	4	4	12	15	13
Bellinzona	11	3	4	4	16	22	13
Xamax	11	3	2	6	16	22	11
St Gallen	11	3	1	7	12	23	10
Grasshopper	10	1	5	4	11	17	8

36-round season (9x4); bottom team will be relegated; 2nd bottom will enter rel/prom play-off

TURKEY

Sep 20: Gaziantepspor 0 Bursaspor 3.
Sep 24: Bursaspor 1 Bucaspor 0.
Sep 25: Genclerbirligi 1 Ankaragucu 0; Eskisehirspor 0 Gaziantepspor 1; Besiktas 2 Antalyaspor 1.
Sep 26: Konyaspor 2 Karabukspor 2; Kayserispor 0 Trabzonspor 0; Manisaspor 3 Sivasspor 0; Galatasaray 3 Istanbul BB 1.
Sep 27: Kasimpasa 2 Fenerbahce 6.
Oct 1: Bucaspor 0 Eskisehirspor 0; Karabukspor 2 Galatasaray 1.
Oct 2: Manisaspor 0 Kayserispor 2; Fenerbahce 3 Genclerbirligi 0; Ankaragucu 4 Konyaspor 1.
Oct 3: Sivasspor 1 Gaziantepspor 1; Istanbul BB 0 Bursaspor 0; Antalyaspor 3 Kasimpasa 1; Trabzonspor 1 Besiktas 0.
Oct 15: Bursaspor 2 Karabukspor 2.
Oct 16: Eskisehirspor 1 Istanbul BB 0; Gaziantepspor 2 Bucaspor 0; Besiktas 2 Manisaspor 3.
Oct 17: Kasimpasa 0 Trabzonspor 7; Genclerbirligi 2 Antalyaspor 3; Kayserispor 4 Sivasspor 1; Galatasaray 2 Ankaragucu 4.
Oct 18: Konyaspor 1 Fenerbahce 4.

TURKEY

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bursaspor	8	6	2	0	13	3	20
Trabzonspor	8	5	2	1	20	6	17
Kayserispor	8	5	2	1	13	4	17
Fenerbahce	8	5	1	2	24	11	16
Karabukspor	8	4	2	2	14	12	14
Antalyaspor	8	4	2	2	12	12	14
Besiktas	8	4	1	3	14	9	13
Ankaragucu	8	4	1	3	15	11	13
Galatasaray	8	4	0	4	12	12	12
Istanbul BB	8	3	1	4	8	9	10
Gaziantepspor	8	2	4	2	6	7	10
Manisaspor	8	3	0	5	13	16	9
Genclerbirligi	8	2	2	4	6	13	8
Bucaspor	8	1	3	4	4	7	6
Eskisehirspor	8	1	3	4	5	9	6
Konyaspor	8	1	3	4	9	16	6
Sivasspor	8	1	3	4	7	19	6
Kasimpasa	8	0	2	6	5	24	2

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

UKRAINE

Sep 25: Illichivets 4 Sevastopol 2; Metalist 1 Shakhtar 2.
Sep 26: Obolon 0 Volyn 1; Dynamo 3 Arsenal 2; Vorskla 2 Metalurh Zaporizhya 1; Dnipro 1 Kryvbas 1; Metalurh Donetsk 1 Zorya 1; Tavriya 3 Karpaty 1.
Oct 1: Metalurh Zaporizhya 0 Dnipro 3.
Oct 2: Illichivets 1 Obolon 0; Zorya 1 Vorskla 1; Arsenal 3 Metalurh Donetsk 1; Volyn 2 Tavriya 2.
Oct 3: Sevastopol 2 Kryvbas 2; Karpaty 0 Metalist 1; Shakhtar 2 Dynamo 0.
Oct 15: Tavriya 2 Illichivets 2; Metalurh Donetsk 0 Shakhtar 2.
Oct 16: Obolon 2 Sevastopol 2; Dynamo 1 Karpaty 0; Metalist 3 Volyn 1.
Oct 17: Vorskla 0 Arsenal 1; Kryvbas 0 Metalurh Zaporizhya 0; Dnipro 1 Zorya 1.

UKRAINE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Shakhtar	13	11	1	1	25	5	34
Dynamo	13	9	2	2	20	12	29
Metalist	13	8	1	4	22	12	25
Dnipro	13	7	3	3	21	8	24
Arsenal	13	6	2	5	16	14	20
Karpaty	13	6	2	5	15	13	20
Vorskla	13	5	3	5	15	14	18
Metalurh D	13	5	3	5	16	17	18
Kryvbas	13	3	7	3	13	16	16
Tavriya	13	4	3	6	20	21	15
Volyn	13	4	3	6	10	16	15
Illichivets	13	3	5	5	19	23	14
Zorya	13	2	6	5	14	19	12
Obolon	13	3	3	7	9	19	12
Sevastopol	13	2	5	6	10	21	11
Metalurh Z	13	0	3	10	4	19	3

30-round season (15x2); bottom 2 will be relegated

SOUTH AMERICA

SUDAMERICANA CUP

2nd round

1st legs - Aug 4-Sep 16; 2nd legs - Aug 11-Sep 23

Atletico Huila (Col) v San Jose (Bol)
1-1, 0-4 (agg 1-5)
Barcelona (Ecu) v Penarol (Uru)
0-1, 1-2 (agg 1-3)
Defensor Sporting (Uru) v Huancayo (Per)
9-0, 0-2 (agg 9-2)
Goias (Bra) v Gremio (Bra)
1-1, 2-0 (agg 3-1)
Gremio Prudente (Bra) v Atletico Mineiro (Bra)
0-0, 0-1 (agg 0-1)
Guarani (Par) v San Felipe (Chl)
1-1, 1-1 (agg 2-2; San Felipe 8-7 on pens)
Independiente (Arg) v Argentinos Juniors (Arg)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Independiente Santa Fe (Col) v Caracas (Ven)
2-1, 0-0 (agg 2-1)
Newell's Old Boys (Arg) v Estudiantes (Arg)
1-0, 1-1 (agg 2-1)
Oriente Petrolero (Bol) v Tolima (Col)
1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
San Martin (Per) v Emelec (Ecu)
2-1, 0-5 (agg 2-6)
Santos (Bra) v Avai (Bra)
1-3, 1-0 (agg 2-3)
Universitario (Bol) v Cerro Porteno (Par)
1-0, 2-2 (agg 3-2)
Velez Sarsfield (Arg) v Banfield (Arg)
0-1, 1-1 (agg 1-2)
Vitoria (Bra) v Palmeiras (Bra)
2-0, 0-3 (agg 2-3)

Bye to last 16:
LDU Quito (Ecu; holders)

ARGENTINA

Apertura

Friday, September 24

Independiente 1 (Galeano 28)
Gimnasia La Plata 0

Velez Sarsfield 3 (Martinez 23, Moralez 28, Dominguez 73)
Olimpo 0

Saturday, September 25

Argentinos Juniors 1 (Vargas 78)
Banfield 0

Colon 2 (Diaz 36, Larrivey 90+1)
San Lorenzo 0

Estudiantes 1 (Rojo 2)
Boca Juniors 0

Lanus 1 (Hoyos 44)
All Boys 0

Sunday, September 26

Arsenal 0
Newell's Old Boys 0

Huracan 1 (Machin 45)
Godoy Cruz 1 (Castillo 43)

River Plate 1 (Pavone 47)
Quilmes 1 (Caneo 90+2)

Tigre 0
Racing Club 0

Wednesday, September 29

Estudiantes 2 (Fernandez 37, Veron pen 45)
Gimnasia La Plata 0

Friday, October 1

Newell's Old Boys 2 (Sperdutti 43, Schiavi pen 49)
Velez Sarsfield 0

Quilmes 0
Arsenal 1 (Aguilar 83)

Saturday, October 2

All Boys 3 (Grazzini 33, 66, Matos 81)
Tigre 3 (Gonzalez 23, 60, Stracqualursi 75)

Gimnasia La Plata 2 (Cordoba 16, 60)
Argentinos Juniors 4 (Vargas 18, Mercier 22, Hernandez 30, Niell 71)

Godoy Cruz 4 (Castillo 20, Salinas 28, Sanchez 37, Curbelo 47)
Independiente 1 (Silvera 8)

Racing Club 3 (Hauche 14, Fernandez 24, Moreno 78)
Huracan 0

Sunday, October 3

Banfield 2 (Ramirez 4, Lopez 68)
River Plate 2 (Ortega pen 63, Roman 87)

Boca Juniors 1 (Insaurralde 34)
Lanus 2 (Blanco 8, Pelletieri pen 90+5)

Olimpo 2 (Tejera 63, Galvan 90+2)
Colon 3 (Higuain 16, 45, Moreno y Fabianesi 25)

San Lorenzo 0
Estudiantes 1 (Fernandez 26)

Friday, October 8

Arsenal 1 (Obolo 90)
Banfield 0

Estudiantes 2 (Fernandez pen 44, Lopez 87)
Olimpo 0

Saturday, October 9

Argentinos Juniors 0
Godoy Cruz 0

Huracan 1 (Soplan 90+3)
All Boys 1 (Ferrari 76)

Lanus 2 (Castillejos 54, Romero pen 62)
San Lorenzo 0

Newell's Old Boys 1 (Formica 30)
Quilmes 1 (Gerlo 60)

Sunday, October 10

Independiente 1 (Baez 45)
Racing Club 0

Tigre 1 (Stracqualursi 38)
Boca Juniors 2 (Gimenez 24, Chavez 85)

Velez Sarsfield 6 (Silva pen 44, pen 58, Martinez 55, 60, 69, Cristaldo 85)
Colon 0

Monday, October 11

River Plate 0
Gimnasia La Plata 0

Universitario now face Brazilian giants Palmeiras in the next round.

CHILE

Nine-man triumph

Despite having Mauro Olivi and Bryan Carrasco sent off, nine-man Audax Italiano beat Universidad Catolica 3-2 to maintain an unbeaten run that now stretches to 14 games.

COLOMBIA

Money laundering

Independiente Santa Fe, who are currently top of the clausura, are being investigated over the alleged laundering of drugs money.

Colombia's attorney general, Guillermo Mendoza, told reporters that the government had confiscated cash totalling £33.5m from fugitive drugs trafficker Daniel "El Loco" Barrera, money that it is alleged was meant for laundering through the club.

Events off the field seem to have affected the team on it too, as Santa Fe lost for only the second time in the league this season, going down 3-2 away to Quindio.

The previous day, second-placed Deportes Tolima had beaten struggling Envigado 2-0 at home to cut Independiente Santa Fe's lead at the top of the table to just one point.

7 consecutive draws for Botafogo, following their 0-0 game against Fluminense

Bolivian hero...Galindo (right)

Friday, October 15

Quilmes 0
Velez Sarsfield 2 (Martinez 39, Silva 84)

San Lorenzo 2 (Menseguez 4, Balsas 77)
Tigre 0

Saturday, October 16

All Boys 3 (Ferrari 5, Rodriguez 14, Casteglione 49)
Independiente 1 (Parra 45)

Banfield 0
Newell's Old Boys 0

Colon 1 (Fuertes 5)
Estudiantes 1 (Fernandez pen 30)

Gimnasia La Plata 2 (Cordoba 1, 46)
Arsenal 3 (Leguizamon 29, Obolo 50, Aguilar 88)

Sunday, October 17

Boca Juniors 2 (Palermo 44, Viatri 66)
Huracan 0

Godoy Cruz 2 (Ramirez 53, Carranza 79)
River Plate 2 (Sigali og 41, Pavone 64)

Olimpo 1 (Grana og 48)
Lanus 0

Racing Club 2 (Moreno 60, 74)
Argentinos Juniors 1 (Niell 28)

ARGENTINA – APERTURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Estudiantes	11	8	2	1	15	4	26
Velez	11	7	2	2	19	6	23
Arsenal	11	7	2	2	13	7	23
Newell's	11	4	6	1	11	6	18
San Lorenzo	11	5	3	3	14	11	18
Lanus	11	5	3	3	12	13	18
Godoy Cruz	11	4	5	2	20	13	17
River Plate	11	4	5	2	12	10	17
Racing Club	11	5	1	5	14	10	16
Boca Juniors	11	5	1	5	16	14	16
Banfield	11	3	6	2	12	8	15
All Boys	11	4	3	4	15	14	15
Colon	11	3	4	4	12	19	13
Tigre	11	3	3	5	13	14	12
Argentinos	11	2	4	5	11	14	10
Huracan	11	2	4	5	9	18	10
Independiente	11	2	3	6	9	19	9
Olimpo	11	3	0	8	8	18	9
Gimnasia LP	11	1	3	7	7	15	6
Quilmes	11	0	6	5	7	16	6

19-round tournament (19x1); no relegation after apertura

LEADING GOALSCORERS

7 Juan Manuel Martinez (Velez Sarsfield)
7 Santiago Silva (Velez Sarsfield)
6 Martin Palermo (Boca Juniors)
6 David Ramirez (Godoy Cruz)

BOLIVIA

Clausura

Sep 22: Oriente 2 Bolivar 4.
Sep 25: La Paz 4 San Jose 3; Mamore 2 Universitario 0.
Sep 26: Potosi 4 Guabira 0; Bolivar 1 Blooming 0; Aurora 2 Wilstermann 2; Oriente 4 The Strongest 0.
Sep 30: Universitario 1 Oriente 2.
Oct 2: Potosi 2 La Paz 3; Blooming 3 Mamore 0.
Oct 3: San Jose 2 Universitario 1; Bolivar 0 Wilstermann 0; Aurora 2 The Strongest 1; Oriente 1 Guabira 0.
Oct 10: San Jose 2 Wilstermann 0; Aurora 0 Potosi 2; Bolivar 4 Guabira 2; Mamore 1 The Strongest 0; Oriente 1 La Paz 0; Universitario 0 Blooming 2.
Oct 13: The Strongest 3 Bolivar 2; Blooming 1 Oriente 0.
Oct 17: La Paz 4 Blooming 1; Wilstermann 2 Universitario 2; The Strongest 1 San Jose 2; Guabira 0 Mamore 0; Potosi 1 Bolivar 1; Oriente 2 Aurora 2.

BOLIVIA – CLAUSURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bolivar	15	7	4	4	22	15	25
Potosi	14	7	3	4	28	21	24
San Jose	14	7	3	4	27	22	24
Oriente	15	7	3	5	23	20	24
Blooming	15	7	3	5	17	14	24
Aurora	14	6	4	4	22	19	22
The Strongest	15	6	1	8	28	28	19
La Paz	14	5	2	7	21	24	17
Guabira	14	4	5	5	11	16	17
Mamore	14	4	4	6	9	19	16
Universitario	14	3	4	7	16	22	13
Wilstermann	14	2	6	6	17	21	12

22-round tournament (11x2); team with worst average points over two most recent seasons will be relegated; 2nd worst will enter rel/prom play-off

BRAZIL

Sep 22: Goias 1 Goianiense 3; Cruzeiro 2 Ceara 0; Gremio Prudente 0 Palmeiras 1; Sao Paulo 2 Guarani 1; Vasco da Gama 2 Botafogo 2; Paranaense 1 Internacional 0; Gremio 2 Flamengo 2; Santos 2 Corinthians 3.
Sep 23: Vitoria 3 Avai 0; Fluminense 5 Mineiro 1.
Sep 25: Goianiense 3 Gremio Prudente 0; Guarani 1 Vasco da Gama 0; Flamengo 1 Palmeiras 3; Santos 4 Cruzeiro 1; Sao Paulo 0 Goias 3.
Sep 26: Vitoria 1 Fluminense 2; Internacional 3 Corinthians 2; Botafogo 1 Paranaense 1; Avai 5 Ceara 0; Mineiro 1 Gremio 2.
Sep 28: Vasco da Gama 3 Santos 1; Goias 1 Flamengo 1.
Sep 29: Paranaense 1 Vitoria 0; Cruzeiro 3 Goianiense 0; Gremio Prudente 4 Guarani 2; Palmeiras 2 Internacional 0; Fluminense 1 Avai 0; Ceara 0 Mineiro 0; Gremio 4 Sao Paulo 2; Corinthians 1 Botafogo 1.
Oct 1: Vasco da Gama 3 Goias 2.
Oct 2: Vitoria 0 Gremio 3; Gremio Prudente 1 Fluminense 1; Santos 1 Palmeiras 1; Corinthians 2 Ceara 2; Internacional 3 Guarani 0; Cruzeiro 0 Paranaense 0; Botafogo 1 Flamengo 1; Avai 0 Sao Paulo 0; Goianiense 2 Mineiro 3.
Oct 6: Fluminense 0 Santos 3; Guarani 1 Botafogo 1; Gremio 4 Gremio Prudente 0; Sao Paulo 2 Vitoria 0; Mineiro 2 Corinthians 1; Ceara 1 Internacional 0; Paranaense 0 Vasco da Gama 0.
Oct 7: Palmeiras 4 Avai 1; Flamengo 2 Goianiense 0; Goias 0 Cruzeiro 1.
Oct 9: Santos 2 Paranaense 0; Vasco da Gama 3 Gremio 3; Gremio Prudente 2 Sao Paulo 3.
Oct 10: Corinthians 3 Goianiense 4; Botafogo 0 Palmeiras 0; Cruzeiro 1 Fluminense 0; Goias 1 Vitoria 0; Avai 2 Flamengo 2; Internacional 1 Mineiro 0; Ceara 2 Guarani 0.
Oct 13: Santos 1 Internacional 0; Vasco da Gama 2 Corinthians 0.
Oct 16: Flamengo 3 Internacional 0; Paranaense 2 Goias 1.
Oct 17: Guarani 0 Corinthians 0; Mineiro 2 Avai 0; Gremio 2 Cruzeiro 1; Goianiense 2 Vasco da Gama 0; Vitoria 2 Gremio Prudente 0; Sao Paulo 4 Santos 3; Palmeiras 1 Ceara 1; Fluminense 0 Botafogo 0.

BRAZIL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruzeiro	30	15	9	6	40	28	54
Fluminense	30	15	8	7	49	31	53
Corinthians	30	14	8	8	52	38	50
Santos	30	14	6	10	51	39	48
Internacional	30	14	5	11	35	31	47
Paranaense	30	13	7	10	33	36	46
Gremio	30	12	10	8	50	37	46
Botafogo	30	10	15	5	42	32	45
Sao Paulo	30	12	8	10	43	43	44
Palmeiras	30	10	14	6	36	30	44
Vasco	30	9	14	7	34	32	41
Ceara	30	9	12	9	25	30	39
Flamengo	30	8	13	9	33	32	37
Guarani	30	8	11	11	31	43	35
Vitoria	30	8	10	12	34	40	34
Goianiense	30	9	5	16	41	47	32
Mineiro	30	9	4	17	37	51	31
Avai	30	7	9	14	39	48	30
Goias	30	7	7	16	33	50	28
G Prudente*	30	5	9	16	28	48	21

38-round season (19x2); bottom 4 will be relegated
**3pts deducted for fielding an ineligible player*

CHILE

Sep 22: Univ Chile 0 O'Higgins 1.
Sep 24: San Luis 1 Cobresal 1.
Sep 25: Espanola 3 Univ Concepcion 0; Morning 3 Everton 0; Univ Catolica 2 Audax Italiano 3.
Sep 26: Wanderers 1 O'Higgins 1; La Serena 1 Colo Colo 2; Cobreloa 3 Nublense 2; Huachipato 1 San Felipe 1; Univ Chile 1 Palestino 2.
Sep 29: Everton 0 Colo Colo 2.
Oct 1: San Felipe 1 Univ Chile 2; Audax Italiano 1 Huachipato 1.
Oct 2: Univ Catolica 3 Wanderers 1; Univ Concepcion 0 Morning 0; Colo Colo 3 San Luis 1.
Oct 3: Palestino 1 Cobresal 0; Nublense 1 Espanola 1; O'Higgins 2 Cobreloa 2; Everton 3 La Serena 3.
Oct 15: Huachipato 0 La Serena 0.
Oct 16: Wanderers 2 San Felipe 1; Espanola 2 Univ Chile 1; San Luis 1 Audax Italiano 2.
Oct 17: Cobreloa 4 Everton 0; O'Higgins 4 Palestino 1; Cobresal 3 Univ Concepcion 1; Morning 4 Nublense 1; Colo Colo 3 Univ Catolica 2.

CHILE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Colo Colo	27	19	3	5	57	26	60
Univ Chile	27	17	3	7	62	36	54
Univ Catolica	27	16	5	6	54	32	53
Audax Italiano	27	15	5	7	58	49	50
Espanola	27	11	9	7	45	38	42
Cobresal	27	12	5	10	43	38	41
San Felipe	27	11	6	10	32	34	39
O'Higgins	27	9	8	10	37	32	35
Huachipato	27	8	10	9	34	37	34
Cobreloa	27	8	9	10	36	34	33
Palestino	27	9	6	12	27	31	33
La Serena	27	9	5	13	34	53	32
U Concepcion	27	7	10	10	30	35	31
Wanderers	27	8	7	12	36	42	31
Nublense	27	6	10	11	40	54	28
Morning	27	6	8	13	27	37	26
Everton	27	6	8	13	31	47	26
San Luis	27	3	9	15	26	54	18

34-round season (17x2); bottom 2 will be relegated; 3rd & 4th bottom will enter rel/prom play-offs

COLOMBIA

Clausura

Regular season

Sep 25: Tolima 3 Cortulua 0; Millonarios 2 America 0; Cucuta 1 Indep Medellin 2; Junior 2 Once Caldas 2.
Sep 26: Pereira 1 Envigado 1; La Equidad 2 Cartagena 1; Dep Cali 0 Huila 0; Quindio 2 Chico 1; Nacional 0 Indep Santa Fe 1.
Sep 29: Indep Medellin 1 Nacional 2; Once Caldas 1 Pereira 0.
Sep 30: Chico 1 Millonarios 1.
Oct 2: America 2 Nacional 0; Once Caldas 1 Cucuta 0; Indep Santa Fe 1 Dep Cali 1.
Oct 3: Chico 1 Junior 0; Cartagena 1 Tolima 4; Envigado 1 La Equidad 2; Indep Medellin 1 Pereira 1; Huila 1 Quindio 0; Cortulua 1 Millonarios 2.
Oct 8: Tolima 2 Envigado 0.
Oct 9: Millonarios 4 Cartagena 0; Once Caldas 2 Indep Medellin 1; Quindio 3 Indep Santa Fe 2.
Oct 10: Cucuta 2 Chico 0; Junior 1 Huila 1; Nacional 2 Cortulua 1; La Equidad 2 Pereira 0; Dep Cali 6 America 3.
Oct 16: Pereira 1 Tolima 2; Cartagena 1 Nacional 2; America 1 Quindio 1; Envigado 1 Millonarios 2.
Oct 17: Indep Medellin 1 La Equidad 1; Cortulua 1 Dep Cali 1; Huila 4 Cucuta 1; Chico 0 Once Caldas 1; Indep Santa Fe 2 Junior 0.

COLOMBIA – CLAUSURA REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Ind Santa Fe	14	9	3	2	21	9	30
Tolima	14	9	2	3	27	12	29
Huila	14	7	5	2	22	18	26
Once Caldas	14	8	2	4	25	23	26
La Equidad	14	7	4	3	20	14	25
Nacional	13	8	1	4	19	17	25
Quindio	14	7	2	5	19	17	23
Cucuta	14	6	2	6	18	17	20
Dep Cali	14	4	6	4	22	19	18
Millonarios	13	5	3	5	18	15	18
America	14	5	3	6	18	20	18
Chico	14	4	5	5	11	15	17
Ind Medellin	14	3	7	4	14	16	16
Junior	14	2	8	4	18	21	14
Cartagena	14	3	4	7	14	22	13
Cortulua	14	2	4	8	12	22	10
Pereira	14	0	6	8	10	19	6
Envigado	14	1	3	10	12	24	6

18-round regular season – top 8 will enter championship play-offs; team with worst average points over three most recent seasons will be relegated; 2nd worst will enter rel/prom play-off

ECUADOR

2nd stage

Sep 22: Espoli 0 Barcelona 0.
Sep 25: Macara 1 Manta 1; Independiente 0 El Nacional 1; LDU 3 Espoli 0; Olmedo 1 Univ Catolica 1.
Sep 26: Cuenca 1 Barcelona 0.
Sep 28: Univ Catolica 2 LDU 1.
Sep 29: Espoli 1 Macara 1; El Nacional 0 Cuenca 0; Emelec 1 Olmedo 0; Manta 0 Independiente 2; Dep Quito 4 Barcelona 0.
Oct 3: Independiente 1 Espoli 1; LDU 0 Emelec 1; Macara 1 Univ Catolica 0; Olmedo 3 Dep Quito 2; Cuenca 3 Manta 1; Barcelona 1 El Nacional 2.
Oct 16: Univ Catolica 1 Independiente 2; Dep Quito 1 El Nacional 0; Manta 1 Barcelona 0; Espoli 2 Cuenca 5; Olmedo 0 LDU 3.
Oct 17: Emelec 2 Macara 0.

Debut goal...Rodriguez

MEXICO

Barra is stand-in boss

Monterrey joined compatriots Cruz Azul and Real Salt Lake of the USA in the quarter-finals of the CONCACAF Champions League with a 2-2 draw away to Saprissa under assistant coach Carlos Barra, who stood in on the trip to Costa Rica for Victor Vucetich who was ill.

The visitors' opening goal was scored by 19-year-old Luis Alfonso Rodriguez, who had played only 59 minutes in the Mexican apertura and who was making his debut in the Champions League.

USA

Sounders seal return

Seattle Sounders will return to the CONCACAF Champions League next season after they beat Columbus Crew 2-1 in the US Open Cup Final.

IVORY COAST

ASEC make it nine

ASEC Mimosas have won their ninth Premier League title in the past 11 seasons. Former champions Stade d'Abidjan only avoided relegation on the final day of the season.

SENEGAL

Underdogs win cup

Second-tier Toure Kounda,

ECUADOR – 2ND STAGE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
LDU	15	10	3	2	28	13	33
Cuenca	15	9	5	1	25	14	32
Emelec	14	7	6	1	16	6	27
Dep Quito	14	7	3	4	20	15	24
Manta	15	6	4	5	19	18	22
Barcelona	15	6	2	7	17	17	20
El Nacional	15	4	5	6	12	15	17
Macara	15	3	5	7	16	23	14
Univ Catolica	15	3	4	8	17	23	13
Independiente	15	3	4	8	16	24	13
Espoli	15	2	7	6	13	21	13
Olmedo	15	3	4	8	11	21	13

22-round stage (11x2) – 2nd stage winner then meets 1st stage winner to decide overall champion; the 2 teams with fewest points from both stages combined will be relegated

PARAGUAY

Clausura

Sep 25: 3 de Febrero 2 Libertad 1; Nacional 1 Tacuary 0.
Sep 26: Sol de America 2 Luqueno 1; Trinidense 1 Olimpia 2; Cerro Porteno 0 Colombia 0.
Sep 27: Guarani 1 Rubio Nu 2.
Oct 2: Rubio Nu 1 Tacuary 2; Libertad 3 Luqueno 1.
Oct 3: 3 de Febrero 0 Trinidense 2; Cerro Porteno 1 Nacional 1; Guarani 1 Sol de America 0; Colombia 0 Olimpia 0.
Oct 9: Tacuary 0 Libertad 1; Olimpia 1 Nacional 2.
Oct 10: Trinidense 1 Guarani 4; Luqueno 3 3 de Febrero 3; Colombia 2 Rubio Nu 0; Sol de America 1 Cerro Porteno 2.
Oct 15: Guarani 1 Luqueno 0.
Oct 16: 3 de Febrero 0 Tacuary 0; Cerro Porteno 3 Trinidense 1; Nacional 2 Sol de America 0; Libertad 4 Colombia 0.
Oct 17: Rubio Nu 2 Olimpia 2.

PARAGUAY – CLAUSURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Libertad	14	11	0	3	29	8	33
Cerro Porteno	14	9	5	0	24	9	32
Nacional	14	7	4	3	14	8	25
Guarani	14	7	3	4	19	13	24
Olimpia	14	5	5	4	21	17	20
Rubio Nu	14	5	5	4	19	17	20
Colombia	14	4	5	5	13	17	17
Sol America	14	4	2	8	13	18	14
Tacuary	14	3	4	7	10	18	13
Luqueno	14	1	7	6	13	19	10
Trinidense	14	2	4	8	13	33	10
3 de Febrero	14	1	6	7	9	20	9

22-round tournament (11x2); team with worst average points over three most recent seasons will be relegated; 2nd worst will enter rel/prom play-off

PERU

2nd stage

Group A

Sep 25: Universitario 0 Alianza Lima 0; Jose Galvez 1 Total Chalaco 0.
Sep 26: Sporting Cristal 4 Inti Gas 2; CNI 0 San Martin 1.
Sep 29: Jose Galvez 3 Inti Gas 2; Alianza Lima 3 Sporting Cristal 1; CNI 2 Total Chalaco 1.
Sep 30: San Martin 1 Universitario 0.
Oct 16: Inti Gas 2 San Martin 1.
Oct 17: Sporting Cristal 1 CNI 0; Total Chalaco 1 Alianza Lima 1; Universitario 3 Jose Galvez 1.

PERU – 2ND STAGE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Martin*	35	23	5	7	68	32	75
Alianza Lima	35	18	9	8	56	35	63
Universitario**	35	18	6	11	47	25	58
S Cristal	35	15	8	12	50	48	53
Inti Gas	35	14	2	19	43	53	44
CNI	35	12	8	15	44	55	44
Jose Galvez	35	8	11	16	25	48	35
T Chalaco***	35	8	9	18	33	50	31

**San Martin gained a 1pt bonus because their youth/reserve team were runners-up in the 1st stage of their league*
***2pts deducted for failing to pay a former coach*
****2pts deducted for failing to pay a former player*

Group B

Sep 25: Alianza Atletico 2 Sport Boys 0; Juan Aurich 3 Cesar Vallejo 0.
Sep 26: Huancayo 3 Melgar 0; Cienciano 1 Leon 2.
Sep 29: Huancayo 0 Sport Boys 1; Cesar Vallejo 1 Cienciano 1.
Sep 30: Alianza Atletico 2 Leon 1; Melgar 0 Juan Aurich 2.
Oct 13: Cesar Vallejo 2 Huancayo 1.
Oct 16: Leon 3 Melgar 1; Juan Aurich 1 Alianza Atletico 3.
Oct 17: Cienciano 0 Huancayo 3; Sport Boys 2 Cesar Vallejo 1.

PERU – 2ND STAGE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Leon	35	19	7	9	62	36	64
Cesar Vallejo*	35	18	6	11	56	38	62
Juan Aurich	35	16	10	9	53	36	58
Huancayo	35	13	6	16	51	51	45
Melgar	35	10	10	15	43	60	40
Sport Boys	35	11	6	18	40	62	39
Al Atletico	35	8	10	17	35	56	34
Cienciano**	35	9	7	19	37	59	32

**Cesar Vallejo gained a 2pt bonus because their youth/reserve team won the 1st stage of their league*
***2pts deducted for failing to pay a former player*

14-round stage (7x2), with teams having carried forward full points and goals record from the 30-round 1st stage – group winners then meet to decide 2nd stage winners

URUGUAY

Apertura

Sep 22: Penarol 2 Wanderers 1.
Sep 25: Fenix 0 Central Espanol 1; River Plate 2 Tacuarembo 0; Miramar Misiones 2 Nacional 4.
Sep 26: Cerro 1 Racing 1; Liverpool 1 Danubio 1; Wanderers 2 Rampla 0; Bella Vista 1 Penarol 2.
Oct 2: Racing 0 Wanderers 2; Defensor 1 Bella Vista 2; Penarol 2 Cerro 1.
Oct 3: Danubio 1 River Plate 2; Central Espanol 3 El Tanque Sisley 5; Tacuarembo 1 Miramar Misiones 1; Rampla 2 Fenix 2; Nacional 0 Liverpool 0.
Oct 6: Defensor 2 Cerro 0.
Oct 9: Miramar Misiones 0 Defensor 1; Fenix 1 Racing 1; Liverpool 2 Central Espanol 2; River Plate 2 Penarol 1.
Oct 10: El Tanque Sisley 3 Rampla 2; Wanderers 1 Danubio 1; Bella Vista 3 Tacuarembo 2; Cerro 4 Nacional 1.
Oct 12: Defensor 3 El Tanque Sisley 1.
Oct 16: Cerro 0 River Plate 0; Fenix 2 Miramar Misiones 1; Danubio 1 Defensor 1.
Oct 17: El Tanque Sisley 1 Wanderers 1; Rampla 2 Central Espanol 2; Liverpool 1 Bella Vista 1; Racing 2 Nacional 2.

URUGUAY – APERTURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Wanderers	8	4	3	1	12	6	15
Tanque Sisley	8	4	3	1	14	11	15
Defensor	8	4	2	2	13	7	14
Penarol	7	4	2	1	12	8	14
River Plate	8	4	2	2	9	8	14
Danubio	8	3	4	1	9	6	13
Bella Vista	8	4	1	3	11	11	13
Fenix	8	2	4	2	11	9	10
Liverpool	8	2	4	2	10	11	10
Nacional	8	2	4	2	10	13	10
C Espanol	8	2	3	3	11	12	9
Cerro	8	1	5	2	6	6	8
M Misiones	8	2	1	5	9	14	7
Racing	8	1	3	4	7	10	6
Tacuarembo	7	1	2	4	8	13	5
Rampla	8	0	3	5	9	16	3

15-round tournament (15x1); no relegation after apertura

VENEZUELA

Apertura

Sep 22: Aragua 2 Petare 1; Monagas 2 Tachira 0; Estudiantes 1 Esppor 0; Caroni 1 Yaracuyanos 1.
Sep 23: Zulia 1 Anzoategui 2; Mineros 1 El Vigia 0; Venezuela 1 Trujillanos 4; Lara 2 Zamora 2.
Oct 2: Yaracuyanos 1 Estudiantes 1.
Oct 3: Carabobo 0 Venezuela 2; Trujillanos 1 Monagas 0; Lara 1 Caracas 3; Mineros 2 Zulia 3; Anzoategui 2 Aragua 4; Tachira 3 Caroni 0; Petare 0 Esppor 0; Zamora 2 El Vigia 1.
Oct 13: Caroni 1 Trujillanos 0.
Oct 16: Esppor 3 Anzoategui 0.
Oct 17: Aragua 1 Mineros 0; Zulia 0 Zamora 0; Estudiantes 2 Tachira 2; Monagas 0 Carabobo 1; Venezuela 2 Caracas 3; Petare 2 Yaracuyanos 1; El Vigia 1 Lara 1.

VENEZUELA – APERTURA

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Tachira	9	6	2	1	19	8	20
Esppor	8	6	1	1	19	4	19
Caracas	9	6	1	2	12	6	19
Aragua	9	5	2	2	13	10	17
Petare	9	4	3	2	13	11	15
Estudiantes	9	4	3	2	12	12	15
Monagas	9	4	2	3	16	9	14
Zulia	9	4	1	4	14	14	13
Trujillanos	9	3	3	3	10	8	12
Yaracuyanos	9	2	5	2	8	8	11
Carabobo	9	2	4	3	8	10	10
Mineros	8	2	3	3	11	11	9
Anzoategui	9	2	3	4	14	21	9
Lara	9	1	5	3	11	15	8
Venezuela	9	2	2	5	11	20	8
Zamora	9	1	4	4	10	15	7
El Vigia	9	0	5	4	9	16	5
Caroni	9	1	1	7	4	16	4

17-round tournament (17x1); no relegation after apertura

CONCACAF

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Group A

Sep 21: Cruz Azul (Mex) 0 Toronto (Can) 0.
Sep 22: Arabe Unido (Pan) 2 Real Salt Lake (USA) 3.
Sep 28: Cruz Azul 2 Arabe Unido 0; Toronto 1 Real Salt Lake 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP A

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	5	3	1	1	14	6	10
Salt Lake	5	3	1	1	14	10	10
Toronto	5	1	2	2	4	7	5
Arabe Unido	5	1	0	4	4	13	3

Group B

Sep 21: Columbus Crew (USA) 1 Santos Laguna (Mex) 0.
Sep 23: Joe Public (T&T) 2 Municipal (Gtm) 3.
Sep 29: Municipal 2 Columbus Crew 1; Santos Laguna 5 Joe Public 1.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP B

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Santos	5	3	1	1	13	6	10
Columbus	5	3	0	2	6	3	9
Municipal	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Joe Public	5	0	1	4	6	17	1

Group C

Sep 22: Marathon (Hnd) 2 Saprissa (CR) 1; Monterrey (Mex) 3 Seattle Sounders (USA) 2.
Sep 28: Saprissa 2 Monterrey 2.
Sep 29: Seattle Sounders 2 Marathon 0.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP C

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	5	4	1	0	10	4	13
Saprissa	5	2	1	2	9	6	7
Marathon	5	2	0	3	5	10	6
Seattle	5	1	0	4	5	9	3

Group D

Sep 22: CD FAS (ESv) 0 Puerto Rico Islanders (PR) 0.
Sep 23: Olimpia (Hnd) 2 Toluca (Mex) 1.
Sep 29: Puerto Rico Islanders 3 Toluca 2.
Sep 30: CD FAS 1 Olimpia 4.

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE – GROUP D

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Olimpia	5	3	1	1	9	7	10
Puerto Rico	5	2	2	1	8	7	8
Toluca	5	2	1	2	10	5	7
CD FAS	5	0	2	3	2	10	2

Top two in each group qualify for quarter-finals

MEXICO

Apertura

Regular season

Sep 24: Necaxa 2 Cruz Azul 1.
Sep 25: Jaguares 2 San Luis 1; Pachuca 3 Tecos 1; Atlas 1 Puebla 0; Queretaro 0 Monterrey 0.
Sep 26: Pumas 2 Atlante 2; Morelia 1 Toluca 2; Tigres 1 Guadalajara 1; America 3 Santos 2.
Oct 1: Tecos 0 Jaguares 0.
Oct 2: San Luis 1 Tigres 0; Santos 2 Toluca 0; Monterrey 2 Necaxa 1; Atlante 1 Pachuca 3.
Oct 3: Puebla 2 Queretaro 0; Pumas 1 Morelia 0; Guadalajara 2 Atlas 2; Cruz Azul 1 America 0.
Oct 6: Guadalajara 0 Morelia 1.
Oct 8: Necaxa 1 Puebla 0.
Oct 9: Jaguares 2 Atlante 0; Pachuca 3 Pumas 2; Tigres 5 Tecos 0; Atlas 2 San Luis 1; Queretaro 2 Guadalajara 2.
Oct 10: Toluca 0 Cruz Azul 0; Morelia 0 Santos 0; America 0 Monterrey 0.
Oct 15: Tecos 2 Atlas 1.
Oct 16: Cruz Azul 3 Santos 0; San Luis 3 Queretaro 2; Pachuca 1 Morelia 1; Guadalajara 1 Necaxa 0; Monterrey 2 Toluca 0; Atlante 1 Tigres 1.
Oct 17: Puebla 2 America 2; Pumas 1 Jaguares 0.

Cup keeper...Seattle's Kasey Keller

who had already clinched promotion, beat US Goree 5-4 on penalties after a goalless draw to win the Senegal FA Cup at the Stade Demba Diop stadium in Dakar.

CAMBODIA

Phnom Penh crowned

Phnom Penh Crown won the championship when they beat Preah Khan Reach 4-3 in the Premier League Final.

HONG KONG

Asia Trophy line-up

English Premier League clubs Chelsea, Aston Villa and Blackburn Rovers will join the Hong Kong league champions in next year's Asia Trophy, which will take place at the Hong Kong Stadium on July 27 and 30. Chelsea will also play friendlies in Malaysia and Thailand as part of a tour of the region.

MALDIVES

VB take championship

VB Sports clinched their second successive league title with a 4-1 win over Maziya.

MYANMAR

Continental glory

Yadanarbon made history by becoming the first Myanmar team to claim continental glory as they beat Dordoi-Dynamo Naryn of Kyrgyzstan 1-0 in the AFC President's Cup Final.

VIETNAM

Hanoi claim title

Hanoi T&T won the title with a draw against Navibank Saigon.

FIJI

Ba success

Ba claimed the league title with a 2-1 win against Navua.

MEXICO – APERTURA REGULAR – GROUP 1

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Monterrey	12	7	5	0	21	10	26
Santos	12	7	1	4	23	15	22
Tigres	12	4	4	4	17	11	16
Guadalajara	12	3	6	3	12	12	15
Necaxa	12	3	4	5	10	13	13
Tecos	12	3	3	6	13	26	12

MEXICO – APERTURA REGULAR – GROUP 2

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
San Luis	12	6	1	5	15	14	19
America	12	4	5	3	15	13	17
Toluca	12	4	5	3	12	12	17
Pachuca	12	4	4	4	19	20	16
Atlante	12	2	3	7	12	21	9
Atlas	12	2	2	8	10	19	8

MEXICO – APERTURA REGULAR – GROUP 3

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Cruz Azul	12	9	1	2	26	10	28
Pumas	12	5	3	4	18	19	18
Jaguares	12	4	4	4	16	12	16
Morelia	12	4	3	5	12	10	15
Puebla	12	4	3	5	15	19	15
Queretaro	12	3	3	6	13	23	12

17-round regular season (17x1) – top 2 in each group and the 2 other teams with most points, regardless of group, will enter championship play-offs. No relegation after apertura

UNITED STATES

Regular season

Sep 22: Dallas 2 New England 2; Kansas City 4 Houston 3.
Sep 24: Los Angeles 0 New York 2.
Sep 25: Toronto 2 San Jose 3; Philadelphia 3 Chivas 0; New England 2 Columbus 2; DC United 1 Houston 3; Kansas City 1 Dallas 3; Chicago 0 Seattle 1; Salt Lake 1 Colorado 1.
Sep 29: Colorado 4 Philadelphia 1; San Jose 0 Chicago 3.
Oct 2: Seattle 3 Toronto 2; Philadelphia 1 Houston 1; New York 1 Kansas City 0; New England 1 Salt Lake 2; Columbus 0 San Jose 0; Dallas 3 Chicago 0; Colorado 0 DC United 1.
Oct 3: Chivas 1 Los Angeles 2.
Oct 7: Philadelphia 0 Los Angeles 1.
Oct 8: Chicago 2 Columbus 0.
Oct 9: New York 0 Salt Lake 0; Dallas 2 Colorado 2; DC United 0 San Jose 2; Kansas City 1 Seattle 2; Chivas 3 Toronto 0.
Oct 10: Houston 1 New England 2.
Oct 12: Chicago 0 Kansas City 2.
Oct 15: Seattle 2 Chivas 1.
Oct 16: Chicago 0 DC United 0; Toronto 2 Columbus 2; Philadelphia 2 New York 1; New England 1 Kansas City 0; Salt Lake 2 Dallas 0; San Jose 0 Houston 1; Los Angeles 1 Colorado 3.

USA – REGULAR – EASTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
New York	29	14	6	9	36	29	48
Columbus	29	13	8	8	37	33	47
Kansas City	29	10	6	13	32	34	36
Chicago	29	8	9	12	33	37	33
Toronto	29	8	8	13	30	39	32
New England	29	9	5	15	32	48	32
Philadelphia	29	8	7	14	34	46	31
DC United	29	6	4	19	19	44	22

USA – REGULAR – WESTERN CONFERENCE

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Los Angeles	29	17	5	7	42	25	56
Salt Lake	29	15	10	4	43	18	55
Dallas	29	12	14	3	41	26	50
Seattle	29	14	6	9	38	33	48
Colorado	29	12	9	8	42	30	45
San Jose	28	12	7	9	30	29	43
Houston	29	8	6	15	38	48	30
Chivas	28	8	4	16	30	38	28

30-round regular season (15x2) – top 2 in each conference and the 4 other teams with most points, regardless of conference, will enter championship play-offs. No relegation from this league

AFRICA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Semi-finals

1st legs

Oct 3
Al Ahly (Egy) 2 (Fadl 38, Fathi 68)
Esperance (Tun) 1 (Darragi 73)
HT: 1-0

Oct 3
TP Mazembe (DRC) 3 (Kaluyituka 5, 88, Kasongo 84)
JS Kabylie (Alg) 1 (Yalaoui 68)
HT: 1-0

2nd legs

Oct 16
JS Kabylie 0
TP Mazembe 0
Sent off: Bilal (Kabylie) 61min
TP Mazembe 3-1 on agg

Oct 17
Esperance 1 (Eneramo 2)
Al Ahly 0
HT: 1-0
Sent off: Barakat (Al Ahly) 26min
Agg 2-2. Esperance on away goals

CONFEDERATION CUP

Group A

Oct 3: Djoliba (Mli) 1 AS Fan (Ngr) 0; Al Hilal (Sud) 2 Al Ittihad (Lby) 0.
Oct 16: AS Fan 0 Al Hilal 0; Al Ittihad 2 Djoliba 0.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP A – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Al Hilal	6	4	1	1	10	6	13
Al Ittihad	6	4	0	2	11	5	12
Djoliba	6	2	1	3	4	5	7
AS Fan	6	0	2	4	3	12	2

Group B

Oct 2: Zanaco (Zam) 1 FUS Rabat (Mor) 1; CS Sfaxien (Tun) 3 Haras Hedood (Egy) 1.
Oct 17: FUS Rabat 2 CS Sfaxien 1; Haras Hedood 1 Zanaco 1.

CONFEDERATION CUP – GROUP B – FINAL

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
FUS Rabat	6	4	1	1	7	6	13
CS Sfaxien	6	3	1	2	9	5	10
Zanaco	6	1	3	2	5	6	6
Haras Hedood	6	0	3	3	4	8	3

Top two in both groups qualified for semi-finals

ASIA

CHAMPIONS LEAGUE

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 15; 2nd legs - Sep 22
Al Hilal (Sau) v Al Gharafa (Qat)
3-0, 2-4 (aet) (agg 5-4)
Jeonbuk Motors (SKo) v Al Shabab (Sau)
0-2, 1-0 (agg 1-2)
Seongnam (SKo) v Suwon Bluewings (SKo)
4-1, 0-2 (agg 4-3)
Zob-Ahan (Irn) v Pohang Steelers (SKo)
2-1, 1-1 (agg 3-2)

AFC CUP

Quarter-finals

1st legs - Sep 14/15; 2nd legs - Sep 21/22
Al Ittihad (Syr) v Kazma (Kuw)
3-2, 1-0 (agg 4-2)
Al Karamah (Syr) v Muangthong United (Tha)
1-0, 0-2 (agg 1-2)
Al Riffa (Bhn) v Da Nang (Vie)
3-0, 5-3 (agg 8-3)
Thai Port (Tha) v Al Qadsia (Kuw)
0-0, 0-3 (agg 0-3)

AUSTRALIA

Regular season

Sep 22: Gold Coast 1 Newcastle 0.
Sep 24: Wellington 2 North Queensland 1; Adelaide 2 Perth 0.
Sep 25: Brisbane 4 Melbourne Heart 0; Newcastle 0 Melbourne Victory 0.
Sep 26: Sydney 1 Gold Coast 1.
Sep 29: Sydney 1 North Queensland 1.
Oct 1: Gold Coast 3 Wellington 1.
Oct 2: Central Coast 3 North Queensland 2.
Oct 3: Perth 1 Brisbane 2.
Oct 4: Sydney 1 Adelaide 2.
Oct 8: Melbourne Heart 2 Melbourne Victory 1.
Oct 15: North Queensland 2 Perth 1.
Oct 16: Melbourne Victory 3 Sydney 0; Brisbane 1 Newcastle 1.
Oct 17: Wellington 2 Melbourne Heart 2; Gold Coast 0 Adelaide 0.

AUSTRALIA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Adelaide	10	6	4	0	17	9	22
Brisbane	9	4	4	1	10	6	16
Central Coast	8	4	3	1	9	6	15
Gold Coast	9	3	5	1	9	6	14
Melbourne V	11	3	5	3	13	11	14
Wellington	10	3	3	4	14	15	12
Melbourne H	10	3	3	4	12	16	12
Perth	10	3	2	5	12	15	11
N Queensland	10	2	4	4	15	17	10
Newcastle	9	1	5	3	5	6	8
Sydney	10	0	4	6	10	19	4

30-round regular season (10x3) – top 6 will enter championship play-offs. No relegation from this league

JAPAN

Sep 25: Tokyo 0 Omiya 1; Sanfrecce 1 Kashima 1; Vissel 0 Cerezo 0; Shimizu 1 Nagoya 5; Urawa 2 Albirex 0; Montedio 1 Shonan 1; Kyoto 0 Jubilo 1; Kawasaki 1 Gamba 2; Yokohama 0 Vegalta 1.
Oct 2: Kyoto 0 Sanfrecce 3; Vissel 0 Kawasaki 4; Omiya 1 Urawa 2; Cerezo 2 Albirex 1; Nagoya 2 Vegalta 1; Kashima 1 Shimizu 1; Montedio 2 Gamba 1.
Oct 3: Jubilo 0 Yokohama 0; Tokyo 3 Shonan 0.
Oct 16: Shonan 1 Kashima 1; Vegalta 3 Tokyo 2; Urawa 2 Cerezo 0; Sanfrecce 1 Jubilo 1; Kawasaki 2 Montedio 0; Gamba 5 Omiya 1; Shimizu 1 Kyoto 1.
Oct 17: Yokohama 1 Vissel 0; Albirex 4 Nagoya 1.

JAPAN

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Nagoya	26	17	3	6	44	31	54
Kashima	26	12	10	4	41	24	46
Gamba	26	13	7	6	51	35	46
Cerezo	26	12	8	6	40	25	44
Kawasaki	26	13	5	8	48	34	44
Yokohama	26	12	6	8	33	25	42
Shimizu	26	11	9	6	46	40	42
Urawa	26	12	5	9	39	28	41
Sanfrecce	26	10	9	7	32	29	39
Albirex	26	10	8	8	37	33	38
Jubilo	26	9	8	9	29	34	35
Montedio	26	9	5	12	21	32	32
Vegalta	26	8	6	12	33	38	30
Omiya	26	7	6	13	23	35	27
Tokyo	26	5	9	12	27	32	24
Vissel	26	5	8	13	22	38	23
Kyoto	26	3	7	16	23	46	16
Shonan	26	3	7	16	27	57	16

34-round season (17x2); bottom 3 will be relegated

SOUTH KOREA

SOUTH KOREA – REGULAR

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Jeju	25	16	6	3	50	24	54
Seoul	24	17	1	6	50	22	52
Seongnam	24	12	7	5	38	20	43
Gyeongnam	24	12	7	5	36	25	43
Jeonbuk	24	12	6	6	45	33	42
Ulsan	25	12	5	8	37	29	41
Suwon	24	10	4	10	34	38	34
Busan	25	7	9	9	34	33	30
Incheon	24	8	5	11	39	43	29
Pohang	24	6	9	9	35	44	27
Chunnam	24	6	8	10	36	42	26
Gangwon	25	5	6	14	30	49	21
Daejeon	24	5	6	13	25	45	21
Daegu	24	5	4	15	27	46	19
Gwangju	24	3	9	12	14	37	18

Standings on October 19
28-round regular season (14x2) – top 6 will enter championship play-offs

FORTHCOMING FIXTURES

November 6
AFC Cup Final
November 7 to 25
Men's football at the Asian Games
November 10
Sudamericana Cup quarter-finals, second leg
November 13
AFC Champions League Final; CAF Champions League Final, second leg
November 17
International friendlies; Sudamericana Cup semi-finals, first leg
November 21
MLS Cup Final
November 24
Sudamericana Cup semi-finals, second leg

ENGLAND PREMIER LEAGUE

ARSENAL

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Manuel ALMUNIA (Spa)	16.05.77
21	Lukasz FABIANSKI (Pol)	18.04.85
24	Vito MANNONE (Ita)	02.03.88
DEFENDERS		
22	Gael CLICHY (Fra)	26.07.85
38	Thomas CRUISE	09.03.91
20	Johan DJOUROU (Swi)	18.01.87
40	Craig EASTMOND	09.12.90
28	Kieran GIBBS	26.09.89
45	Gavin HOYTE	06.06.90
6	Laurent KOSCIELNY (Fra)	10.09.85
3	Bacary SAGNA (Fra)	14.02.83
18	Sebastien SQUILLACI (Fra)	11.08.80
5	Thomas VERMAELEN (Blg)	14.11.85
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Andrei ARSHAVIN (Rus)	29.05.81
15	DENILSON (Bra)	16.02.88
2	Abou DIABY (Fra)	11.05.86
27	Emmanuel EBOUE (IvC)	04.06.83
41	Jay EMMANUEL-THOMAS	27.12.90
4	Cesc FABREGAS (Spa)	04.05.87
8	Samir NASRI (Bra)	26.06.87
16	Aaron RAMSEY (Wal)	26.12.90
7	Tomas ROSICKY (CzR)	04.10.80
17	Alexandre SONG (Cam)	09.09.87
19	Jack WILSHERE	01.01.92
FORWARDS		
52	Nicklas BENDTNER (Den)	16.01.88
29	Marouane CHAMAKH (Mor)	10.01.84
57	Gilles SUNU (Fra)	30.03.91
10	Robin VAN PERSIE (Hol)	06.08.83
11	Carlos VELA (Mex)	01.03.89
14	Theo WALCOTT	16.03.89
MANAGER		
	Arsene WENGER (Fra)	22.10.49

ASTON VILLA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Brad FRIEDEL (USA)	18.05.71
22	Brad GUZAN (USA)	09.09.84
33	Andy MARSHALL	14.04.75
DEFENDERS		
48	Nathan BAKER	23.04.91
23	Habib BEYE (Sen)	19.10.77
21	Ciaran CLARK	26.09.89
29	James COLLINS (Wal)	23.04.83
24	Carlos CUELLAR (Spa)	23.08.81
15	Curtis DAVIES	15.03.85
5	Richard DUNNE (Rol)	21.09.79
30	Eric LICHAJ (USA)	17.11.88
34	Shane LOWRY (Aus)	12.06.89
3	Stephen WARNOCK	12.12.81
2	Luke YOUNG	19.07.79
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Marc ALBRIGHTON	18.11.89
25	Barry BANNAN (Sco)	01.12.89
16	Fabian DELPH	21.11.89
6	Stewart DOWNING	22.07.84
50	Jonathan HOGG	06.12.88
9	Stephen IRELAND (Rol)	22.08.86
27	Isaiah OSBOURNE	05.11.87
19	Stiliyan PETROV (Bul)	05.07.79
20	Nigel REO-COKER	14.05.84
17	Moustapha SALIFOU (Tog)	01.06.83
4	Steve SIDWELL	14.12.82
7	Ashley YOUNG	09.07.85
FORWARDS		
11	Gabriel AGBONLAHOR	13.10.86
10	John CAREW (Nor)	05.09.79
14	Nathan DELFOUNESO	02.02.91
18	Emile HESKEY	11.01.78
MANAGER		
	Gerard HOULLIER (Fra)	03.09.47

BIRMINGHAM CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Colin DOYLE (Rol)	12.08.85
26	Ben FOSTER	03.04.83
1	Maik TAYLOR (NI)	04.09.71
DEFENDERS		
2	Stephen CARR (Rol)	29.08.76
15	Scott DANN	14.02.87
28	Martin JIRANEK (CzR)	25.05.79
5	Roger JOHNSON	28.04.83
3	David MURPHY	01.03.84
21	Stuart PARNABY	19.07.82
6	Liam RIDGEWELL	21.07.84
MIDFIELDERS		
23	Jean BEAUSEJOUR (Chl)	01.06.84
4	Lee BOWYER	03.01.77
18	Keith FAHEY (Rol)	15.01.83
12	Barry FERGUSON (Sco)	02.02.78
8	Craig GARDNER	25.11.86
22	Aliaksandr HLEB (Bls)	01.05.81
7	Sebastian LARSSON (Swe)	06.06.85
17	MICHEL (Spa)	09.11.85
24	Jay O'SHEA (Rol)	10.08.88
27	Nathan REDMOND	06.03.94
20	Enric VALLES (Spa)	01.03.90
FORWARDS		
14	Matt DERBYSHIRE	14.04.86
10	Cameron JEROME	14.08.86
16	James MCFADDEN (Sco)	14.04.83
9	Kevin PHILLIPS	25.07.73
19	Nikola ZIGIC (Ser)	25.09.80
MANAGER		
	Alex McLEISH (Sco)	21.01.59

BLACKBURN ROVERS

GOALKEEPERS		
32	Jason BROWN (Wal)	18.05.82
13	Mark BUNN	16.11.84
34	Frank FIELDING	04.04.88
1	Paul ROBINSON	15.10.79
DEFENDERS		
39	Pascal CHIMBONDA (Fra)	21.02.79
5	Gael GIVET (Fra)	09.10.81
29	Gavin GUNNING (Rol)	26.01.91
31	Grant HANLEY (Sco)	20.11.91
28	Phil JONES	21.02.92
33	Josh MORRIS	30.09.91
6	Ryan NELSEN (NZ)	18.10.77
3	Martin OLSSON (Swe)	17.05.88
27	Michel SALGADO (Spa)	22.10.75
4	Christopher SAMBA (Con)	28.03.84
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Keith ANDREWS (Rol)	13.09.80
19	Aaron DORAN (Rol)	13.05.91
8	David DUNN	27.12.79
7	Brett EMERTON (Aus)	22.02.79
11	Vincenzo GRELLA (Aus)	05.10.79
14	Amine LINGANZI (Alg)	16.11.89
15	Steven N'ZONZI (Fra)	15.12.88
12	Morten Gamst PEDERSEN (Nor)	08.09.81
FORWARDS		
21	BENJANI Mwaruwari (Zim)	13.08.78
10	El Hadji DIOUF (Sen)	15.01.81
41	Mame Biram DIOUF (Sen)	16.12.87
23	David HOILETT (Can)	05.06.90
9	Nikola KALINIC (Cro)	05.01.88
MANAGER		
	Sam ALLARDYCE	19.10.54

BLACKPOOL

GOALKEEPERS		
21	Matthew GILKS (Sco)	04.06.82
13	Mark HALSTEAD	01.01.90
28	Richard KINGSON (Gha)	13.06.78
1	Paul RACHUBKA (USA)	21.05.81
DEFENDERS		
15	Alex BAPTISTE	31.01.86
29	David CARNEY (Aus)	30.11.83
20	Craig CATHCART (NI)	06.02.89
2	Daniel COID	03.10.81
3	Stephen CRAINEY (Sco)	22.06.81
5	Neil EARDLEY (Wal)	06.11.88
24	Rob EDWARDS (Wal)	25.12.82
6	Ian EVATT	19.11.81
31	Dekel KEINAN (Isr)	15.09.84
MIDFIELDERS		
26	Charlie ADAM (Sco)	10.12.85
17	Chris BASHAM	20.07.88
27	Ishmel DEMONTAGNAC	15.06.88
8	Malaury MARTIN (Fra)	25.08.88
23	Matt PHILLIPS	13.03.91
4	Keith SOUTHERN	21.04.81
19	Ludovic SYLVESTRE (Fra)	05.02.84
11	David VAUGHAN (Wal)	18.02.83
FORWARDS		
39	DJ CAMPBELL	12.11.81
7	Billy CLARKE (Rol)	13.12.87
18	Jason EUELL (Jam)	06.02.77
14	Elliot GRANDIN (Fra)	17.10.87
9	Marlon HAREWOOD	25.08.79
10	Brett ORMEROD	18.10.76
12	Gary TAYLOR-FLETCHER	04.06.81
16	Luke VARNEY	28.09.82
MANAGER		
	Ian HOLLOWAY	12.03.63

MANCHESTER CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Shay GIVEN (Rol)	24.04.76
25	Joe HART	19.04.87
12	Stuart TAYLOR	28.11.80
DEFENDERS		
17	Jerome BOATENG (Ger)	03.09.88
38	Dedryck BOYATA (Blg)	08.09.90
3	Wayne BRIDGE	05.08.80
22	Greg CUNNINGHAM (Rol)	31.01.91
13	Aleksandar KOLAROV (Ser)	10.11.85
4	Vincent KOMPANY (Blg)	10.04.86
19	Joleon LESCOTT	16.08.82
2	Micah RICHARDS	24.06.88
28	Kolo TOURE (IvC)	19.03.81
36	Javan VIDAL	10.05.89
5	Pablo ZABALETA (Arg)	16.01.85
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Gareth BARRY	23.02.81
34	Nigel DE JONG (Hol)	30.11.84
11	Adam JOHNSON	14.07.87
6	Michael JOHNSON	24.02.88
7	James MILNER	04.01.86
21	David SILVA (Spa)	08.01.86
42	Yaya TOURE (IvC)	13.05.83
24	Patrick VIEIRA (Fra)	23.06.76
8	Shaun WRIGHT-PHILLIPS	25.10.81
FORWARDS		
9	Emmanuel ADEBAYOR (Tog)	26.02.84
45	Mario BALOTELLI (Ita)	12.08.90
29	Kelvin ETUHU (Nig)	30.05.88
27	JO (Bra)	20.03.87
43	Alex NIMELY	11.05.91
14	Roque SANTA CRUZ (Par)	16.08.81
32	Carlos TEVEZ (Arg)	05.02.84
MANAGER		
	Roberto MANCINI (Ita)	27.11.64

MANCHESTER UNITED

GOALKEEPERS		
29	Tomasz KUSZCZAK (Pol)	20.03.82
1	Edwin VAN DER SAR (Hol)	29.10.70
DEFENDERS		
6	Wes BROWN	13.10.79
31	Corry EVANS (NI)	30.07.90
23	Jonny EVANS (NI)	03.01.88
3	Patrice EVRA (Fra)	15.05.81
20	FABIO (Bra)	09.07.90
5	Rio FERDINAND	07.11.78
2	Gary NEVILLE	18.02.75
22	John O'SHEA (Rol)	30.04.81
21	RAFAEL (Bra)	09.07.90
12	Chris SMALLING	22.11.89
15	Nemanja VIDIC (Ser)	21.10.81
MIDFIELDERS		
8	ANDERSON (Bra)	13.04.88
16	Michael CARRICK	28.07.81
24	Darren FLETCHER (Sco)	01.02.84
28	Darron GIBSON (Rol)	25.10.87
11	Ryan GIGGS (Wal)	29.11.73
4	Owen HARGREAVES	20.01.81
17	NANI (Por)	17.11.86
13	PARK Ji-sung (SKo)	25.02.81
18	Paul SCHOLES	16.11.74
25	Antonio VALENCIA (Ecu)	04.08.85
FORWARDS		
33	BEBE (Por)	12.07.90
9	Dimitar BERBATOV (Bul)	30.01.81
14	Javier HERNANDEZ (Mex)	01.06.88
27	Federico MACHEDA (Ita)	22.08.91
26	Gabriel OBERTAN (Fra)	26.02.89
7	Michael OWEN	14.12.79
10	Wayne ROONEY	24.10.85
MANAGER		
	Alex FERGUSON (Sco)	31.12.41

NEWCASTLE UNITED

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Steve HARPER	14.03.75
26	Tim KRUL (Hol)	03.04.88
33	Ole SODERBERG (Swe)	20.07.90
DEFENDERS		
5	Sol CAMPBELL	18.09.74
2	Fabrizio COLOCCINI (Arg)	22.01.82
3	Jose ENRIQUE (Spa)	23.01.86
28	Tamas KADAR (Hun)	14.03.90
14	James PERCH	28.09.85
12	Danny SIMPSON	04.01.87
16	Ryan TAYLOR	19.08.84
27	Steven TAYLOR	23.01.86
6	Michael WILLIAMSON	08.11.83
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Joey BARTON	02.09.82
31	Shane FERGUSON (NI)	12.07.91
15	Dan GOSLING	02.02.90
8	Danny GUTHRIE	18.04.87
18	Jonas GUTIERREZ (Arg)	05.07.82
10	Wayne ROUTLEDGE	07.01.85
4	Kevin NOLAN	24.06.82
17	Alan SMITH	28.10.80
24	Cheik TIOTE (IvC)	21.06.86
29	Haris VUCKIC (Sln)	21.09.92
FORWARDS		
23	Shola AMEOBI	12.10.81
37	Hatem BEN ARFA (Fra)	07.03.87
20	Leon BEST (Rol)	19.09.86
9	Andy CARROLL	06.01.89
32	Ryan DONALDSON	01.05.91
11	Peter LOVENKRANDS (Den)	29.01.80
30	Nile RANGER	11.04.91
19	XISCO (Spa)	27.06.86
MANAGER		
	Chris HUGHTON (Rol)	11.12.58

STOKE CITY

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Asmir BEGOVIC (Bos)	20.06.87
27	Carlo NASH	13.09.73
29	Thomas SORENSEN (Den)	12.06.76
38	Danzelle ST LOUIS-HAMILTON	07.05.90
DEFENDERS		
5	Danny COLLINS (Wal)	06.08.80
21	Andrew DAVIES	17.12.84
25	Abdoulaye FAYE (Sen)	26.02.78
3	Danny HIGGINBOTHAM	29.12.78
4	Robert HUTH (Ger)	18.08.84
17	Ryan SHAWCROSS	04.10.87
30	Ryan SHOTTON	30.09.88
28	Andy WILKINSON	06.08.84
12	Marc WILSON (Rol)	17.08.87
MIDFIELDERS		
24	Rory DELAP (Rol)	06.07.76
15	Salif DIAO (Sen)	10.02.77
26	Matthew ETHERINGTON	14.08.81
36	Matthew LUND	21.11.90
16	Jermaine PENNANT	15.01.83
14	Danny PUGH	19.10.82
8	Tom SOARES	10.07.86
23	Michael TONGE	07.04.83
6	Glenn WHELAN (Rol)	13.01.84
18	Dean WHITEHEAD	12.01.82
FORWARDS		
10	Ricardo FULLER (Jam)	31.10.79
7	Eidur GUDJOHNSEN (Ice)	15.09.78
9	Kenwyne JONES (T&T)	05.10.84
11	Mamady SIDIBE (Mli)	18.12.79
20	TUNCAY Sanli (Tur)	16.01.82
19	Jon WALTERS (Rol)	20.09.83
MANAGER		
	Tony PULIS (Wal)	16.01.58

SUNDERLAND

GOALKEEPERS		
24	Trevor CARSON (NI)	05.03.88
1	Craig GORDON (Sco)	31.12.82
22	Simon MIGNOLET (Blg)	06.08.88
DEFENDERS		
12	Marcos ANGELERI (Arg)	04.07.83
2	Phil BARDSLEY (Sco)	28.06.85
19	Titus BRAMBLE	21.07.81
14	Paulo DA SILVA (Par)	01.02.80
29	Anton FERDINAND	18.02.85
5	John MENSAH (Gha)	29.11.82
15	Nedum ONUOHA	30.11.86
4	Michael TURNER	09.11.83
MIDFIELDERS		
27	Ahmed AL MUHAMMADI (Egy)	09.09.87
6	Lee CATTERMOLE	21.03.88
25	Jack COLBACK	24.10.89
10	Jordan HENDERSON	17.06.90
8	Steed MALBRANQUE (Fra)	06.01.80
18	David MEYLER (Rol)	29.05.89
20	Andy REID (Rol)	29.07.82
3	Kieran RICHARDSON	21.10.84
16	Cristian RIVEROS (Par)	16.10.82
7	Bolo ZENDEN (Hol)	15.08.76
FORWARDS		
11	Darren BENT	06.02.84
9	Fraizer CAMPBELL	13.09.87
33	Asamoah GYAN (Gha)	22.11.85
17	Danny WELBECK	26.11.90
MANAGER		
	Steve BRUCE	31.12.60

BOLTON WANDERERS

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Adam BOGDAN (Hun)	27.09.87
22	Jussi JAASKELAINEN (Fin)	19.04.75
13	Robert LAINTON	12.10.89
DEFENDERS		
25	Marcos ALONSO (Spa)	28.12.90
5	Gary CAHILL	19.12.85
12	Zat KNIGHT	02.05.80
31	Andy O'BRIEN (RoI)	29.06.79
18	Sam RICKETTS (Wal)	11.10.81
4	Paul ROBINSON	14.12.78
3	Jlloyd SAMUEL (T&T)	29.03.81
2	Gretar STEINSSON (Ice)	09.01.82
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Tamir COHEN Isr)	04.03.84
16	Mark DAVIES	18.02.88
23	Sean DAVIS	20.09.79
11	Ricardo GARDNER (Jam)	25.09.78
8	Stuart HOLDEN (USA)	01.08.85
27	LEE Chung-yong (SKo)	02.07.88
6	Fabrice MUAMBA	06.04.88
28	Joey O'BRIEN (RoI)	17.02.86
10	Martin PETROV (Bul)	15.01.79
7	Matthew TAYLOR	27.11.81
FORWARDS		
20	Robbie BLAKE	04.03.76
40	Tom EAVES	14.02.92
9	Johan ELMANDER (Swe)	27.05.81
14	Kevin DAVIES	26.03.77
17	Ivan KLASNIC (Cro)	29.01.80
19	Rodrigo MORENO (Spa)	06.03.91
35	Temitope OBADEYI	29.10.89
15	RIGA Mustapha (Hol)	10.10.81
MANAGER		
	Owen COYLE (Sco)	14.07.66

CHELSEA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Petr CECH (CzR)	20.05.82
40	HILARIO (Por)	21.10.75
22	Ross TURNBULL	04.01.85
DEFENDERS		
33	ALEX (Bra)	17.06.82
17	Jose BOSINGWA (Por)	24.08.82
43	Jeffrey BRUMA (Hol)	13.11.91
3	Ashley COLE	20.12.80
19	Paulo FERREIRA (Por)	18.01.79
2	Branislav IVANOVIC (Ser)	22.02.84
26	John TERRY	07.12.80
38	Patrick VAN AANHOLT (Hol)	29.08.90
18	Yuriy ZHIRKOV (Rus)	20.08.83
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Yossi BENAYOUN (Isr)	05.05.80
5	Michael ESSIEN (Gha)	03.12.82
8	Frank LAMPARD	20.06.78
15	Florent MALOUDA (Fra)	13.06.80
46	Josh McEACHRAN	01.03.93
12	John Obi MIKEL (Nig)	22.04.87
60	Daniel PHILLISKIRK	10.04.91
7	RAMIRES (Bra)	24.03.87
59	Michael WOODS	06.04.90
FORWARDS		
39	Nicolas ANELKA (Fra)	14.03.79
45	Fabio BORINI (Ita)	23.03.91
11	Didier DROGBA (IvC)	11.03.78
44	Gael KAKUTA (Fra)	21.06.91
21	Salomon KALOU (IvC)	05.08.85
23	Daniel STURRIDGE	01.09.89
MANAGER		
	Carlo ANCELOTTI (Ita)	10.06.59

EVERTON

GOALKEEPERS		
24	Tim HOWARD (USA)	06.03.79
1	Jan MUCHA (Slk)	05.12.82
12	Iain TURNER (Sco)	26.01.84
DEFENDERS		
3	Leighton BAINES	11.12.84
23	Seamus COLEMAN (RoI)	11.10.88
15	Sylvain DISTIN (Fra)	16.12.77
34	Shane DUFFY (NI)	01.01.92
5	John HEITINGA (Hol)	15.11.83
2	Tony HIBBERT	20.02.81
6	Philip JAGIELKA	17.08.82
30	Shkodran MUSTAFI (Ger)	17.04.92
18	Phil NEVILLE	21.01.77
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Mikel ARTETA (Spa)	26.03.82
32	Ross BARKLEY	05.12.93
7	Diniyar BILYALETDINOV (Rus)	27.02.85
17	Tim CAHILL (Aus)	06.12.79
25	Marouane FELLAINI (Blg)	22.11.87
21	Leon OSMAN	17.05.81
20	Steven PIENAAR (SAf)	17.03.82
26	Jack RODWELL	11.03.91
38	James WALLACE	19.12.91
FORWARDS		
35	Kieran AGARD	10.10.89
28	Victor ANICHEBE (Nig)	23.04.88
37	Jose BAXTER	07.02.92
16	Jermaine BECKFORD	09.12.83
19	Magaye GUEYE (Fra)	06.07.90
8	Louis SAHA (Fra)	08.08.78
29	Joao SILVA (Por)	21.05.90
22	YAKUBU Aiyegbeni (Nig)	22.11.82
MANAGER		
	David MOYES (Sco)	25.04.63

FULHAM

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Mark SCHWARZER (Aus)	06.10.72
12	David STOCKDALE	20.09.85
19	Pascal ZUBERBUHLER (Swi)	08.01.71
DEFENDERS		
6	Chris BAIRD (NI)	25.02.82
28	Matthew BRIGGS	19.03.91
32	Rafik HALLICHE (Alg)	02.09.86
5	Brede HANGELAND (Nor)	20.06.81
18	Aaron HUGHES (Nig)	08.11.79
2	Stephen KELLY (RoI)	06.09.83
4	John PAINTSIL (Gha)	15.06.81
3	Carlos SALCIDO (Mex)	02.04.80
14	Philippe SENDEROS (Swi)	14.02.85
22	Fredrik STOOR (Swe)	28.02.84
MIDFIELDERS		
29	Simon DAVIES (Wal)	23.10.79
23	Clint DEMPSEY (USA)	09.03.83
26	Kagiso DIKGACOI (SAf)	24.11.84
16	Damien DUFF (RoI)	02.03.79
20	Dickson ETUHU (Nig)	08.06.82
11	Zoltan GERA (Hun)	22.04.79
27	Jonathan GREENING	02.01.79
37	Alex KACANIKLIC (Swe)	13.08.91
13	Danny MURPHY	18.03.77
17	Bjorn Helge RIISE (Nor)	21.06.83
FORWARDS		
36	Lauri DALLA VALLE (Fin)	14.09.91
30	Moussa DEMBELE (Blg)	17.07.87
35	David ELM (Swe)	10.01.83
8	Andy JOHNSON	10.02.81
21	Eddie JOHNSON (USA)	31.03.84
15	Diomansy KAMARA (Sen)	08.11.80
25	Bobby ZAMORA	16.01.81
MANAGER		
	Mark HUGHES (Wal)	01.11.63

LIVERPOOL

GOALKEEPERS		
41	Martin HANSEN	15.06.90
30	Charles ITANDJE (Fra)	02.11.82
1	Brad JONES (Aus)	19.03.82
25	Pepe REINA (Spa)	31.08.82
DEFENDERS		
5	Daniel AGGER (Den)	12.12.84
6	Fabio AURELIO (Bra)	24.09.79
23	Jamie CARRAGHER	28.01.78
32	Stephen DARBY	06.10.88
36	Steven IRWIN	29.09.90
2	Glen JOHNSON	23.08.84
34	Martin KELLY	27.04.90
3	Paul KONCHESKY	15.05.81
16	Sotirios KYRGIAKOS (Gre)	23.07.79
37	Martin SKRTEL (Slk)	15.12.84
22	Danny WILSON (Sco)	27.12.91
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Joe COLE	08.11.81
8	Steven GERRARD	30.05.80
14	Milan JOVANOVIC (Ser)	18.04.83
21	LUCAS (Bra)	09.01.87
4	Raul MEIRELES (Por)	17.03.83
28	Christian POULSEN (Den)	28.02.80
17	Maxi RODRIGUEZ (Arg)	02.01.81
33	Jonjo SHELVEY	27.02.92
26	Jay SPEARING	25.11.88
FORWARDS		
19	Ryan BABEL (Hol)	19.12.86
39	Nathan ECCLESTON	30.12.90
18	Dirk KUYT (Hol)	22.07.80
24	David N'GOG (Fra)	01.04.89
12	Daniel PACHECO (Spa)	05.01.91
9	Fernando TORRES (Spa)	20.03.84
MANAGER		
	Roy HODGSON	09.08.47

TOTTENHAM HOTSPUR

GOALKEEPERS		
23	Carlo CUDICINI (Ita)	06.09.73
1	Heurelho GOMES (Bra)	15.02.81
37	Stipe PLETIKOSA (Cro)	08.01.79
DEFENDERS		
32	Benoit ASSOU-EKOTTO (Cam)	24.03.84
3	Gareth BALE (Wal)	16.07.89
19	Sebastien BASSONG (Cam)	09.07.86
22	Vedran CORLUKA (Cro)	05.02.86
20	Michael DAWSON	18.11.83
13	William GALLAS (Fra)	17.08.77
6	Tom HUDDLESTONE	28.12.86
2	Alan HUTTON (Sco)	30.11.84
4	Younes KABOUL (Fra)	04.01.86
26	Ledley KING	12.10.80
16	Kyle NAUGHTON	11.11.88
39	Jonathan WOODGATE	22.01.80
MIDFIELDERS		
5	David BENTLEY	27.08.84
17	Giovani DOS SANTOS (Mex)	11.05.89
8	Jermaine JENAS	18.02.83
21	Niko KRANJCAR (Cro)	13.08.84
7	Aaron LENNON	16.04.87
29	Jake LIVERMORE	14.11.89
14	Luka MODRIC (Cro)	09.09.85
24	Jamie O'HARA	25.09.86
12	Wilson PALACIOS (Hon)	29.07.84
30	SANDRO (Bra)	15.03.89
11	Rafael VAN DER VAART (Hol)	11.02.83
FORWARDS		
15	Peter CROUCH	30.01.81
18	Jermain DEFOE	07.10.82
10	Robbie KEANE (RoI)	08.07.80
9	Roman PAVLYUCHENKO (Rus)	15.12.81
MANAGER		
	Harry REDKNAPP	02.03.47

WEST BROMWICH ALBION

GOALKEEPERS		
39	Ryan ALLSOPP	17.06.92
1	Scott CARSON	03.09.85
40	Dean KIELY (RoI)	10.10.70
13	Boaz MYHILL (Wal)	09.11.82
DEFENDERS		
4	Marek CECH (Slk)	26.01.83
34	Paul DOWNING	26.10.91
36	Gonzalo JARA (Chl)	29.08.85
2	Joe MATTOCK	15.05.90
23	Abdoulaye MEITE (IvC)	06.10.80
3	Jonas OLSSON (Swe)	10.03.83
6	PABLO (Spa)	03.08.81
20	Nicky SHOREY	19.02.81
30	Gabriel TAMAS (Rom)	09.11.83
22	Gianni ZUIVERLOON (Hol)	30.12.86
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Chris BRUNT (NI)	14.12.84
17	Graham DORRANS (Sco)	05.05.87
27	Sam MANTOM	20.02.92
21	Youssuf MULUMBU (DRC)	25.01.87
12	Steven REID (RoI)	10.03.81
7	James MORRISON (Sco)	25.05.86
33	Paul SCHARNER (Aut)	11.03.80
5	Somen TCHOYI (Cam)	29.03.83
14	Jerome THOMAS	23.03.83
29	George THORNE	04.01.93
FORWARDS		
8	Giles BARNES	05.08.88
9	Roman BEDNAR (CzR)	26.03.83
31	Simon COX (RoI)	28.04.87
28	Marc-Antoine FORTUNE (Fra)	02.07.81
10	Ishmael MILLER	05.03.87
24	Peter ODEMWINGIE (Nig)	15.07.81
MANAGER		
	Roberto DI MATTEO (Ita)	29.05.70

WEST HAM UNITED

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Robert GREEN	18.01.80
28	Peter KURUCZ (Hun)	30.05.88
29	Marek STECH (CzR)	28.01.90
DEFENDERS		
22	Manuel DA COSTA (Por)	06.05.86
4	Danny GABBIDON (Wal)	08.08.79
3	Tal Ben HAIM (Isr)	31.03.82
23	Herita ILUNGA (DRC)	25.02.82
37	Lars JACOBSEN (Den)	20.09.79
14	Radoslav KOVAC (CzR)	27.11.79
2	Winston REID (NZ)	03.07.88
18	Jonathan SPECTOR (USA)	03.01.86
5	James TOMKINS	29.03.89
15	Matthew UPSON	18.04.79
MIDFIELDERS		
12	Pablo BARRERA (Mex)	21.06.87
21	Valon BEHRAMI (Swi)	19.04.85
13	Luis BOA MORTE (Por)	04.08.77
10	Jack COLLISON (Wal)	02.10.88
7	Kieron DYER	29.12.78
20	Julien FAUBERT (Fra)	01.08.83
11	Thomas HITZLSPERGER (Ger)	05.04.82
16	Mark NOBLE	08.05.87
8	Scott PARKER	13.10.80
27	Jordan SPENCE	24.05.90
25	Junior STANISLAS	26.11.89
FORWARDS		
9	Carlton COLE	12.10.83
26	Zavon HINES	27.12.88
17	Benni McCARTHY (SAf)	12.11.77
33	Victor OBINNA (Nig)	25.03.87
30	Frederic PIQUIONNE (Fra)	08.12.78
19	Freddie SEARS	27.11.89
MANAGER		
	Avram GRANT (Isr)	04.05.55

WIGAN ATHLETIC

GOALKEEPERS		
26	Ali AL HABSI (Oma)	30.12.81
1	Chris KIRKLAND	02.05.81
12	Mike POLLITT	29.02.72
DEFENDERS		
3	Antolin ALCARAZ (Par)	30.07.82
17	Emmerson BOYCE (Bar)	24.09.79
5	Gary CALDWELL (Sco)	12.04.82
13	Stephen CALDWELL (Sco)	12.09.80
31	Maynor FIGUEROA (Hon)	02.05.83
2	Steve GOHOURI (IvC)	08.02.81
35	Roman GOLOBART (Spa)	21.03.92
39	Jordan MUSTOE	28.01.91
MIDFIELDERS		
15	Tom CLEVERLEY	12.08.89
21	Mohamed DIAME (Fra)	14.06.87
14	Jordi GOMEZ (Spa)	24.05.85
16	James McARTHUR (Sco)	07.10.87
4	James McCARTHY (RoI)	12.11.90
10	Charles N'ZOGBIA (Fra)	28.05.86
23	Ronnie STAM (Hol)	18.06.84
6	Hendry THOMAS (Hon)	23.02.85
8	Ben WATSON	09.07.85
FORWARDS		
9	Mauro BOSELLI (Arg)	22.05.85
28	Daniel DE RIDDER (Hol)	06.03.84
7	Franco DI SANTO (Arg)	07.04.89
38	Callum McMANAMAN	25.04.91
11	Victor MOSES	12.12.90
20	Hugo RODALLEGA (Col)	25.07.85
MANAGER		
	Roberto MARTINEZ (Spa)	13.07.73

WOLVERHAMPTON WANDERERS

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Marcus HAHNEMANN (USA)	15.06.72
13	Wayne HENNESSEY (Wal)	24.01.87
DEFENDERS		
39	Danny BATTH	21.09.90
16	Christophe BERRA (Sco)	31.01.85
6	Jody CRADDOCK	25.07.75
36	Johnny DUNLEAVY (RoI)	03.07.91
3	George ELOKOBI (Cam)	31.01.86
32	Kevin FOLEY (RoI)	01.11.84
15	Greg HALFORD	08.12.84
26	Matthew HILL	26.03.81
21	Michael MANCIENNE	08.01.88
22	Steven MOUYOKOLO (Fra)	24.01.87
5	Richard STEARMAN	19.08.87
2	Jelle VAN DAMME (Blg)	10.10.83
23	Ronald ZUBAR (Fra)	20.09.85
MIDFIELDERS		
4	David EDWARDS (Wal)	03.02.86
34	Adlene GUEDIOURA (Alg)	12.11.85
8	Karl HENRY	26.11.82
12	Stephen HUNT (RoI)	01.08.81
17	Matthew JARVIS	22.05.86
14	David JONES	04.11.84
7	Michael KIGHTLY	24.01.86
20	Nenad MILIJAS (Ser)	30.04.83
25	Geoffrey MUJANGI BIA (Blg)	12.08.89
FORWARDS		
19	Marcus BENT	19.05.78
29	Kevin DOYLE (RoI)	18.09.83
9	Sylvan EBANKS-BLAKE	29.03.86
10	Steven FLETCHER (Sco)	26.03.87
11	Stephen WARD (RoI)	20.08.85
38	Sam WINNALL	14.12.91
MANAGER		
	Mick McCARTHY (RoI)	07.02.59

FRANCE LIGUE 1

ARLES-AVIGNON

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Cyrille MERVILLE	14.04.82
1 Vincent PLANTE	19.11.80
30 Naby-Moussa YATTARA (Gui)	12.01.84
DEFENDERS	
13 Loic ABENZOAR	14.02.89
4 El-Amin ERBATE (Mor)	01.07.81
23 Jean-Alain FANCHONE	02.09.88
22 Gael GERMANY	10.05.85
15 Fabien LAURENTI	06.01.83
2 Alvaro Perez MEJIA (Spa)	18.01.82
3 Francisco PAVON (Spa)	09.01.80
5 Bakary SORO (IvC)	05.12.85
MIDFIELDERS	
6 Jamal AIT BEN IDIR	10.01.84
17 Thomas AYASSE	17.02.87
26 Angelos BASINAS (Gre)	03.01.76
20 Remy CABELLA	08.03.90
24 Emmanuel CORREZE	09.03.82
28 Camel MERIEM	18.10.79
27 Deme N'DIAYE (Sen)	06.02.85
8 Sebastien PIOCELLE	10.11.78
FORWARDS	
11 Hameur BOUAZZA (Alg)	22.02.85
9 Angelos CHARISTEAS (Gre)	09.02.80
19 Kaba DIAWARA (Gui)	16.12.75
29 Franck DJA DJEDJE (IvC)	02.06.86
10 Kamel GHILAS (Alg)	09.03.84
25 JONATHAN (Bra)	29.03.90
18 Yann KERMORGANT	08.11.81
14 Chafik NAJIH	05.08.83
7 Benjamin PSAUME	12.01.85
COACH	
Faruk HADZIBEGIC (Ser)	07.10.57

AUXERRE

GOALKEEPERS	
40 Willy MAEYENS	05.06.89
16 Remy RIOU	06.08.87
1 Olivier SORIN	16.04.81
DEFENDERS	
23 Jeremy BERTHOD	24.04.84
6 Adama COULIBALY (Mli)	09.10.80
4 Stephane GRICHTING (Swi)	30.03.79
2 Cedric HENGBART	13.07.80
31 Soumahoro JOHNSON (IvC)	27.02.88
28 Amara KALLE (Mli)	19.09.90
12 Jean-Pascal MIGNOT	26.02.81
20 Amadou SIDIBE (Mli)	19.02.86
MIDFIELDERS	
34 Vincent ACAPANDIE	09.02.90
7 Kamel CHAFNI (Mor)	11.06.82
5 Dariusz DUDKA (Pol)	09.12.83
21 Steeven LANGIL	04.03.88
39 Christopher MISSILOU	18.07.92
29 Delvin NDINGA (Con)	03.04.88
17 Benoit PEDRETTI	12.11.80
15 Frederic SAMMARITANO	23.03.86
19 Yaya SANOGO	27.01.93
27 Alain TRAORE (BuF)	31.12.88
FORWARDS	
26 Anicet ANDRIANANTENAINA	16.03.90
9 Valter BIRSA (Sln)	07.08.86
25 Maxime BOURGEOIS	03.02.91
18 Roy CONTOUT	11.02.85
22 Ireneusz JELEN (Pol)	09.04.81
8 Anthony LE TALLEC	03.10.84
10 Alexandre LICATA	02.01.84
14 Dennis OLIECH (Ken)	02.02.85
11 Julien QUERCIA	17.08.86
COACH	
Jean FERNANDEZ	08.10.54

BORDEAUX

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Cedric CARRASSO	30.12.81
40 Abdoulaye KEITA	16.08.90
30 Kevin OLIMPA	10.03.88
16 Ulrich RAME	19.09.72
DEFENDERS	
21 Mathieu CHALME	07.10.80
2 Michael CIANI	06.04.84
3 HENRIQUE (Bra)	02.05.83
23 Florian MARANGE	03.03.86
27 Marc PLANUS	07.03.82
29 Lamine SANE	22.03.87
15 Vujadin SAVIC (Ser)	01.07.90
28 Benoit TREMOULINAS	28.12.85
MIDFIELDERS	
8 Fahid BEN KHALFALLAH	09.10.82
4 Alou DIARRA	15.07.81
19 Pierre DUCASSE	07.05.87
5 FERNANDO (Bra)	03.05.81
18 Jaroslav PLASIL (CzR)	05.01.82
17 WENDEL (Bra)	08.04.82
FORWARDS	
14 Floyd AYITE (Tog)	15.12.88
11 David BELLION	27.11.82
25 Cheikh DIABATE (Mli)	25.04.88
7 Yoan GOUFFRAN	25.05.86
10 JUSSIE (Bra)	19.09.83
26 Ouwo Moussa MAAZOU (Nig)	25.08.88
22 Anthony MODESTE	14.04.88
20 Henri SAIVET	26.10.90
COACH	
Jean TIGANA	23.06.55

BREST

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Gaetan DENEUVE	03.05.85
1 Steeve ELANA	11.07.80
30 Simon PONTDEME	04.05.88
DEFENDERS	
12 Paul BAYSSE	15.05.88
2 Yvan BOURGIS	24.09.79
18 Moise BROU APANGA (Gab)	04.02.82
3 Thomas COTTY	09.05.87
22 Ousmane COULIBALY	09.07.89
25 Omar DAF (Sen)	12.02.77
28 Filippos DARLAS (Gre)	23.10.83
24 Ahmed KANTARI (Mor)	28.06.85
7 Gregory LORENZI	17.12.83
4 Johan MARTIAL	30.05.91
9 Theophile N'TAME (Cam)	17.05.85
MIDFIELDERS	
23 Yoann BIGNE	23.08.77
5 Oscar EWOLO (Con)	09.10.78
21 Brahim FERRADJ	04.09.87
6 Bruno GROUGI	26.04.83
19 Benoit LESOIMIER	21.02.83
27 Mario LICKA (CzR)	30.04.82
8 Granddi NGOYI	17.05.88
11 Richard SOUMAH	06.10.86
17 Fodie TRAORE	01.03.85
FORWARDS	
33 Anthony BOVA	07.03.90
15 Tomas MICOLA (CzR)	26.09.88
20 Romain POYET	25.11.80
26 Nolan ROUX	01.03.88
10 Larsen TOURE	20.07.84
COACH	
Alex DUPONT	30.06.54

CAEN

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Thomas BOSMEL	18.04.88
35 Nicolas MELET	29.04.90
16 Damien PERQUIS	08.03.86
1 Alexis THEBAUX	17.03.85
DEFENDERS	
21 Pablo BARZOLA (Arg)	17.11.83
5 Thomas HEURTAUX	03.07.88
3 Romain INEZ	30.04.88
6 Branko LAZAREVIC (Ser)	14.05.84
24 Gregory LECA	22.08.80
19 Jeremy SORBON	05.08.83
23 Gregory TAFFOREAU	29.09.76
MIDFIELDERS	
7 Anthony DEROIN	15.03.79
20 Romain HAMOUMA	29.03.87
8 Damien MARCQ	08.12.88
26 Yohan MOLLO	18.07.89
29 Ismaila N'DIAYE	22.01.88
10 Benjamin NIVET	02.01.77
22 Alexandre RAINEAU	21.06.86
2 Nicolas SEUBE	11.08.79
17 Rajiv VAN LA PARRA (Hol)	04.06.91
FORWARDS	
15 Youssef EL ARABI	03.02.87
33 Thibault MOULIN	13.01.90
11 Livio NABAB	14.06.88
18 Kandia TRAORE (IvC)	05.07.80
25 Sambou YATABARE	02.03.89
COACH	
Franck DUMAS	09.01.68

MONACO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Sebastien CHABBERT	15.05.78
30 Franck L'HOSTIS	03.04.90
16 Stephane RUFFIER	27.09.86
DEFENDERS	
12 ADRIANO Pereira (Bra)	03.04.82
2 Dennis APPIAH	09.06.92
5 Laurent BONNART	25.12.79
13 Petter HANSSON (Swe)	14.12.76
29 Layvin KURZAWA	04.09.92
32 Igor LOLO (IvC)	22.07.82
4 Cedric MONGONGU (DRC)	22.06.89
23 Vincent MURATORI	03.08.87
3 Nicolas NKOULOU (Cam)	27.03.90
28 Sebastien PUYGRENIER	28.01.82
18 Djimi TRAORE (Mli)	01.03.80
MIDFIELDERS	
8 Alejandro ALONSO (Arg)	03.03.82
22 Frederic BULOT	27.09.90
6 Eduardo COSTA (Bra)	23.09.82
20 Mathieu COUTADEUR	20.06.86
31 Loic DUFAU	15.03.89
19 Jean-Jacques GOSSO (IvC)	15.03.83
25 Lukman HARUNA (Nig)	04.12.90
7 Chris MALONGA (Con)	11.07.87
15 Thomas MANGANI	29.04.87
24 Nampalys MENDY	23.06.92
FORWARDS	
11 Pierre-Emerick AUBAMEYANG (Gab)	18.06.89
17 Serge GAKPE (Tog)	07.05.87
26 Kevin MALCUIT	31.07.91
9 Dieumerci MBOKANI (DRC)	22.11.85
21 Daniel NICULAE (Rom)	06.10.82
10 PARK Chu-young (SKo)	10.07.85
COACH	
Guy LACOMBE	13.06.55

MONTPELLIER

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Geoffrey JOURDREN	04.02.86
30 Jonathan LIGALI	28.05.91
1 Laurent PIONNIER	24.05.82
DEFENDERS	
2 Garry BOCALY	19.04.88
25 Xavier COLLIN	17.08.74
4 Nenad DZODIC (Ser)	04.01.77
21 Abdelhamid EL KAOUTARI	17.03.90
27 Cyril JEUNECHAMP	18.12.75
31 Teddy MEZAGUE	27.05.90
15 Mickael NELSON	02.02.90
5 Emir SPAHIC (Cro)	18.08.80
22 Benjamin STAMBOULI	13.08.90
3 Mapou YANGA-M'BIWA	15.05.89
MIDFIELDERS	
29 Younes BELHANDA	25.02.90
32 Adrien COULOMB	04.10.90
13 Marco ESTRADA (Chl)	28.05.83
7 Gregory LACOMBE	11.01.82
8 Guillaume LEGRAS	17.01.90
28 Jonas MARTIN	09.04.90
6 Joris MARVEAUX	15.08.82
14 Romain PITAU	08.08.77
23 Jamel SAIHI	27.01.87
FORWARDS	
18 Karim AIT-FANA	25.02.89
26 Romain ARMAND	27.02.87
19 Souleymane CAMARA (Sen)	22.12.82
12 Geoffrey DERNIS	24.12.80
17 Olivier GIROUD	30.09.86
11 Hasan KABZE (Tur)	26.05.82
24 Bengadi Fode KOITA	21.10.90
COACH	
Rene GIRARD	04.04.54

NANCY

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Gennaro BRACIGLIANO	01.03.80
16 Damien GREGORINI	02.03.79
30 Remi PILLOT	27.07.90
DEFENDERS	
20 Michael CHRETIEN (Mor)	10.07.84
25 Reynald LEMAITRE	28.06.83
8 Jordan LOTIES	05.08.84
5 ANDRE LUIZ (Bra)	27.01.80
3 Joel SAMI (DRC)	13.11.84
MIDFIELDERS	
6 Pascal BERENGUER	20.05.81
23 Jonathan BRISON	07.02.83
9 Aatif CHAHECHOUHE	02.07.86
22 Alexandre CUVILLIER	17.06.86
21 Samba DIAKITE	24.01.89
18 Julien FERET	05.07.82
24 Benjamin GAVANON	09.08.80
29 Alfred N'DIAYE	06.03.90
7 Landry N'GUEMO (Cam)	28.11.85
33 Fouad RACHID	15.11.91
12 Bakaye TRAORE (Mli)	06.03.85
FORWARDS	
14 Paul ALO'O EFOULOU (Cam)	12.11.83
11 Djamel BAKAR	06.04.89
15 Youssouf HADJI (Mor)	25.02.80
19 Marama VAHIRUA	12.05.80
COACH	
Pablo CORREA (Uru)	14.03.67

NICE

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Lionel LETIZI	28.05.73
1 David OSPINA (Col)	31.08.88
30 Lucas VERONESE	06.02.91
DEFENDERS	
3 Alain CANTAREIL	15.08.83
2 Renato CIVELLI (Arg)	14.10.83
29 Francois CLERC	18.04.83
23 Drissa DIAKITE (Mli)	18.02.85
18 Ismael GACE	19.09.86
19 Larrys MABIALA	08.09.87
5 Gregory PAISLEY	07.05.77
4 Nemanja PEJCINOVIC (Ser)	04.11.87
MIDFIELDERS	
17 Chaouki BEN SAADA (Tun)	01.07.84
15 Kafoumba COULIBALY (IvC)	26.10.85
6 Didier DIGARD	12.07.86
14 Emerse FAE (IvC)	24.01.84
8 David HELLEBUYCK	12.05.79
26 Anthony MOUNIER	27.09.87
27 Julien SABLE	11.09.80
24 Abdou TRAORE (Mli)	17.01.88
FORWARDS	
10 Mamadou BAGAYOKO (Mli)	21.05.79
21 Habib BAMOGO	08.05.82
28 Danijel LJUBOJA (Ser)	04.09.78
11 Eric MOULOUNGUI (Gab)	01.04.84
7 Mickael POTE (Ben)	24.09.84
12 Abeiku QUANSAH (Gha)	02.11.90
COACH	
Eric ROY	26.09.67

PARIS SAINT-GERMAIN

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Alphonse AREOLA	27.02.93
1 Gregory COUPET	31.12.72
30 Apoula EDEL (Cam)	17.06.86
DEFENDERS	
22 Sylvain ARMAND	01.08.80
6 Zoumana CAMARA	03.04.79
2 CEARA (Bra)	16.06.80
26 Christophe JALLET	31.10.83
24 Tripy MAKONDA	24.01.90
3 Mamadou SAKHO	13.02.90
5 Siake TIENE (IvC)	22.02.82
13 Sammy TRAORE (Mli)	25.02.76
MIDFIELDERS	
12 Mathieu BODMER	22.11.82
20 Clement CHANTOME	11.09.87
23 Jeremy CLEMENT	26.08.84
4 Claude MAKELELE	18.02.73
19 NENE (Bra)	19.07.81
25 Jerome ROTHEN	31.03.78
10 Stephane SESSEGNON (Ben)	01.06.84
31 Adama TOURE (Mli)	28.08.91
FORWARDS	
11 Mevlut ERDINC (Tur)	25.02.87
7 Ludovic GIULY	10.07.76
9 Guillaume HOARAU	05.03.84
14 Mateja KEZMAN (Ser)	12.04.79
8 Peguy LUYINDULA	25.05.79
21 Jean-Eudes MAURICE	21.06.86
COACH	
Antoine KOMBOUARE	16.11.63

LENS

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Samuel ATROUS	15.02.90
16 Hamdi KASRAOUI (Tun)	18.01.83
1 Vedran RUNJE (Cro)	10.02.76
DEFENDERS	
3 Serge AURIER	24.12.92
6 Henri BEDIMO (Cam)	04.06.84
24 Eric CHELLE	11.11.77
20 Adil HERMACH	27.06.86
4 Franck QUEUDRUE	27.08.78
2 Marco RAMOS (Por)	26.04.83
25 Darnel SITU	18.03.92
5 Alaeddine YAHIA (Tun)	26.08.81
MIDFIELDERS	
28 Kanga AKALE (IvC)	07.03.81
26 Yohan DEMONT	15.05.78
8 Geoffrey DOUMENG	09.11.80
21 Sidi Yaya KEITA (Mli)	20.03.85
33 Geoffrey KONDOGBIA	15.02.93
23 Nenad KOVACEVIC (Ser)	11.11.80
18 Sebastien ROUDET	16.06.81
10 Gregory SERTIC	05.08.89
27 Samba SOW (Mli)	29.04.89
FORWARDS	
7 Abdoulrazak BOUKARI (Tog)	25.04.87
11 EDUARDO (Bra)	05.08.80
22 Issam JEMAA (Tun)	28.01.84
15 Steeven JOSEPH-MONROSE	20.07.90
9 Toifilou MAOULIDA	08.06.79
29 David POLLET (Blg)	12.08.88
COACH	
Jean-Guy WALLEMME	10.08.67

LILLE

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Mickael LANDREAU	14.05.79
16 Barel MOUKO (Con)	05.04.79
30 Alexandre OUKIDJA	19.07.88
DEFENDERS	
18 Franck BERIA	23.05.83
22 Aurelien CHEDJOU (Cam)	20.06.85
2 Mathieu DEBUCHY	28.07.85
15 EMERSON Da Conceicao (Bra)	23.02.86
23 Adil RAMI	27.12.85
14 David ROZEHNAL (CzR)	05.07.80
6 Pape N'Diaye SOUARE (Sen)	06.06.90
3 Jerry VANDAM	08.12.88
MIDFIELDERS	
4 Florent BALMONT	02.02.80
7 Yohan CABAYE	14.01.86
29 Stephane DUMONT	06.09.82
5 Idrissa GUEYE (Sen)	26.09.89
26 Eden HAZARD (Blg)	07.01.91
24 Rio MAVUBA	08.03.84
10 Ludovic OBRANIAK (Pol)	10.11.84
FORWARDS	
12 Cedric BASEYA	19.12.87
9 Tulio DE MELO (Bra)	31.01.85
17 Pierre-Alain FRAU	15.04.80
27 GERVINHO (IvC)	27.05.87
28 Emil LYNG (Den)	03.08.89
8 Moussa SOW	19.01.86
31 Omar WADE (Sen)	15.05.90
COACH	
Rudi GARCIA	20.02.64

LORIENT

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Fabien AUDARD	28.03.78
1 Lionel CAPPONE	08.02.79
35 Alban JOINEL	14.09.79
30 Benjamin LECOMTE	26.04.91
DEFENDERS	
17 Maxime BACA	02.06.83
6 Gregory BOURILLON	01.07.84
5 Bruno ECUELE MANGA (Gab)	16.07.88
3 Lamine KONE	01.02.89
14 Arnaud LE LAN	22.03.78
15 Jeremy MOREL	02.04.84
2 Franco SOSA (Arg)	04.04.81
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Morgan AMALFITANO	20.03.85
23 Mathias AUTRET	01.03.91
20 Rafik BOUDERBAL	19.09.87
24 Antoine BURON	12.10.83
19 Francis COQUELIN	13.05.91
11 Sigamary DIARRA	10.01.84
21 Cheick DOUKOURE	11.09.92
12 James FANCHONE	21.02.80
8 Yann JOUFFRE	23.07.84
10 Olivier MONTERRUBIO	08.08.76
26 Remi MULUMBA	02.11.92
7 Arnold MVUEMBA	28.01.85
4 Alaixys ROMAO (Tog)	18.01.84
FORWARDS	
13 Sebastian DUBARBIER (Arg)	19.02.86
9 Kevin GAMEIRO	09.04.87
27 Lynel KITAMBALA	26.10.88
22 Kevin MONNET-PAQUET	19.08.88
29 Fabien ROBERT	06.01.89
COACH	
Christian GOURCUFF	05.04.55

LYON

GOALKEEPERS	
26 Joan HARTOCK	17.02.87
1 Hugo LLORIS	26.12.86
30 Remy VERCOUTRE	26.06.80
DEFENDERS	
20 Aly CISSOKHO	15.09.87
3 CRIS (Bra)	03.06.77
4 Pape DIAKHATE (Sen)	21.06.84
36 Sebastien FAURE	03.01.91
2 Lamine GASSAMA	20.10.89
12 Timothee KOLODZIEJCZAK	01.10.91
5 Dejan LOVREN (Cro)	05.07.89
13 Anthony REVEILLERE	10.11.79
35 Nicolas SEGUIN	06.03.90
MIDFIELDERS	
19 Cesar DELGADO (Arg)	18.08.81
10 EDERSON (Bra)	13.01.86
21 Maxime GONALONS	10.03.89
29 Yoann GOURCUFF	11.07.86
22 Clement GRENIER	07.01.91
6 Kim KALLSTROM (Swe)	24.08.82
34 Sidy KONE (Mli)	06.06.92
17 Jean MAKOUN (Cam)	29.05.83
11 MICHEL BASTOS (Bra)	02.08.83
8 Miralem PJANIC (Bos)	02.04.90
28 Jeremy TOULALAN	10.09.83
FORWARDS	
39 Ishak BELFODIL (Alg)	12.01.92
7 Jimmy BRIAND	02.05.85
18 Bafetimbi GOMIS	06.08.85
38 Alexandre LACAZETTE	28.05.91
9 LISANDRO Lopez (Arg)	02.03.83
15 Harry NOVILLO	11.02.92
24 Jeremy PIED	23.02.89
COACH	
Claude PUEL	02.09.61

MARSEILLE

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Elinton ANDRADE (Bra)	30.03.79
30 Steve MANDANDA	28.03.85
1 Rudy RIOU	22.01.80
DEFENDERS	
2 Cesar AZPILICUETA (Spa)	28.08.89
21 Souleymane DIAWARA (Sen)	24.12.78
19 Gabriel HEINZE (Arg)	19.04.78
5 HILTON (Bra)	13.09.77
13 Senah MANGO (Tog)	13.12.91
14 Leyti N'DIAYE (Sen)	19.08.85
4 Julien RODRIGUEZ	11.06.78
26 Jean-Philippe SABO	26.02.87
3 Taye TAIWO (Nig)	16.04.85
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Fabrice ABRIEL	06.07.79
7 Benoit CHEYROU	03.05.81
6 Edouard CISSE	30.03.78
12 Charles KABORE (BuF)	09.02.88
8 LUCHO Gonzalez (Arg)	19.01.81
17 Stephane MBIA (Cam)	20.05.86
23 Alexander N'DOUMBOU (Gab)	04.01.92
34 Kevin OSEI	26.03.91
28 Mathieu VALBUENA	28.09.84
FORWARDS	
20 Andre AYEW (Gha)	17.12.89
15 Jordan AYEW (Gha)	11.09.91
9 BRANDAO (Bra)	16.06.80
10 Andre-Pierre GIGNAC	12.05.85
11 Loic REMY	02.01.87
COACH	
Didier DESCHAMPS	15.10.68

RENNES

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Johann CARRASSO	07.05.88
40 Abdoulaye DIALLO	30.03.92
1 Nicolas DOUCHEZ	22.04.80
DEFENDERS	
4 APAM Onyekachi (Nig)	30.12.85
25 John BOYE (Gha)	23.04.87
29 Romain DANZE	03.07.86
33 Bira DEMBELE	22.03.88
12 Rod FANNI	06.12.81
15 Jean-Armel KANA-BIYIK	03.07.89
5 Kader MANGANE (Sen)	23.03.83
13 Samuel SOUPRAYEN	18.02.89
26 Kevin THEOPHILE-CATHERINE	28.10.89
MIDFIELDERS	
20 Yacine BRAHIMI	08.02.90
10 Stephane DALMAT	16.02.79
28 Tongo Hamed DOUMBIA	06.08.89
23 Kamal ISSAH (Gha)	30.08.92
22 Yassine JEBBOUR	24.08.91
18 Fabien LEMOINE	16.03.87
7 Jerome LEROY	04.11.74
14 Georges MANDJECK (Cam)	09.12.88
17 Yann MVILA	29.06.90
6 Alexander TETTEY (Nor)	04.04.86
FORWARDS	
27 Abdoul Razzagui CAMARA	20.02.90
11 Jires KEMBO-EKOKO (DRC)	08.01.88
8 Sylvain MARVEAUX	15.04.86
21 Victor Hugo MONTANO (Col)	01.05.84
COACH	
Frederic ANTONETTI	19.08.61

SAINT-ETIENNE

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Abdoulaye COULIBALY (Sen)	02.03.88
16 Jeremie JANOT	11.10.77
30 Jessy MOULIN	13.01.86
DEFENDERS	
15 Yoann ANDREU	03.05.89
26 Moustapha BAYAL Sall (Sen)	30.11.85
3 Carlos BOCANEGRA (USA)	25.05.79
22 Albin EBONDO	23.02.84
5 Sylvain MARCHAL	10.02.80
6 Sylvain MONSOREAU	20.03.81
8 Guirane N'DAW (Sen)	24.04.84
27 Loris NERY	05.02.91
MIDFIELDERS	
10 Laurent BATLLES	23.09.75
31 Faouzi GHOULAM	01.02.91
23 Josuha GUILAVOGUI	19.09.90
19 Christophe LANDRIN	30.06.77
20 Boubacar MANSALY (Sen)	04.02.88
12 Blaise MATUIDI	09.04.87
24 Loic PERRIN	07.08.85
25 Sidy SAGNA (Sen)	04.02.90
11 Bakary SAKO	24.04.88
FORWARDS	
9 Gonzalo BERGESSIO (Arg)	20.07.84
21 Sebastien GRAX	23.06.84
7 Dimitri PAYET	29.03.87
29 Emmanuel RIVIERE	03.03.90
33 Idriss SAADI	08.02.92
18 Boubacar SANOGO (IvC)	17.12.82
COACH	
Christophe GALTIER	23.08.66

SOCHAUX

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Pierrick CROS	23.06.91
30 Mathieu DREYER	20.03.89
16 Teddy RICHERT	21.09.74
DEFENDERS	
13 Jeremie BRECHET	14.08.79
2 Frederic DUPLUS	07.04.90
4 Boukary DRAME (Sen)	19.11.84
19 Jacques FATY	25.02.84
17 Maxime JOSSE	21.03.87
22 Yassin MIKARI (Tun)	09.01.83
24 Damien PERQUIS	10.04.84
29 Mathieu PEYBERNES	21.10.90
23 David SAUGET	23.11.79
MIDFIELDERS	
6 Kevin ANIN	05.07.86
10 Ryad BOUDEBOUZ (Alg)	19.02.90
8 CARLAO (Bra)	19.01.86
14 Marvin MARTIN	10.06.88
11 Nicolas MAURICE-BELAY	19.04.85
21 Vincent NOGUEIRA	16.01.88
27 Loic POUJOL	27.02.89
5 Badara SENE (Sen)	19.11.84
7 Geoffrey TULASNE	24.02.88
FORWARDS	
18 Cedric BAKAMBU	11.04.91
20 Edouard BUTIN	16.06.88
9 Charlie DAVIES (USA)	25.06.86
28 Rafael DIAS (Por)	29.01.91
26 Serdar GURLER (Tur)	14.09.91
12 Brown IDEYE (Nig)	10.10.88
15 Modibo MAIGA (Mli)	03.09.86
25 Vaclav SVERKOS (CzR)	01.11.83
COACH	
Francis GILLOT	09.02.60

TOULOUSE

GOALKEEPERS	
30 Yohann PELE	04.11.82
1 Matthieu VALVERDE	14.05.83
16 Marc VIDAL	03.06.91
DEFENDERS	
28 Florian AIGOUY	15.08.90
4 Mauro CETTO (Arg)	14.04.82
3 Daniel CONGRE	05.04.85
33 Mickael FIRMIN	21.09.90
2 Mohamed FOFANA	07.03.85
21 Adrian GUNINO (Uru)	03.02.89
12 Cheikh M'BENGUE	23.07.88
17 Jean-Joel PERRIER DOUMBE (Cam)	27.09.78
MIDFIELDERS	
26 Wissam BEN YEDDER	12.08.90
25 Daniel BRAATEN (Nor)	25.05.82
29 Etienne CAPOUE	11.07.88
6 Antoine DEVAUX	21.02.85
8 Etienne DIDOT	24.07.83
5 Paulo MACHADO (Por)	31.03.86
7 Fode MANSARE (Gui)	03.09.81
34 Adrien REGATTIN	22.08.91
14 Francois SIRIEIX	07.10.80
22 Moussa SISSOKO	16.08.89
27 Franck TABANOU	30.01.89
FORWARDS	
18 Soren LARSEN (Den)	06.09.81
9 Xavier PENTECOTE	13.08.86
11 Federico SANTANDER (Par)	04.06.91
35 Amadou SOUKOUNA	21.06.92
10 Yannis TAFER	11.02.91
COACH	
Alain CASANOVA	18.09.61

VALENCIENNES

GOALKEEPERS	
16 Jean-Louis LECA	21.09.85
1 Nicolas PENNETEAU	28.02.81
30 Gregory WIMBEE	19.08.71
DEFENDERS	
20 Benjamin ANGOUA (IvC)	28.11.86
4 Bobo BALDE (Gui)	13.10.75
6 Milan BISEVAC (Ser)	31.08.83
24 Gaetan BONG (Cam)	25.04.88
2 David DUCOURTIOUX	11.04.78
33 Nicolas ISIMAT-MIRIN	15.11.91
25 Rudy MATER	13.10.80
3 Christopher MFUYI (Con)	03.07.89
21 Nicolas PALLOIS	19.09.87
31 Pierre SAGNA	21.08.90
5 Rafael SCHMITZ (Bra)	17.12.80
MIDFIELDERS	
18 Amara BANGOURA (Gui)	10.03.86
26 Renaud COHADE	29.09.84
8 Gael DANIC	19.11.81
10 Mathieu DOSSEVI	12.02.88
12 Remi GOMIS	14.02.84
14 Foued KADIR (Alg)	05.12.83
29 Seid KHITER	19.01.85
7 Jonathan LACOURT	17.08.86
22 Guillaume LORIOT	21.05.86
19 NAM Tae-hee (SKo)	03.07.91
23 Jose SAEZ	07.05.82
17 Carlos SANCHEZ (Col)	06.02.86
FORWARDS	
9 Vincent ABOUBAKAR (Cam)	22.01.92
34 Francis MASSAMPU	26.12.91
28 Gregory PUJOL	25.01.80
27 Mamadou SAMASSA (Mli)	01.05.86
COACH	
Philippe MONTANIER	15.11.64

GERMANY BUNDESLIGA

SQUADS 2010-11

BAYER LEVERKUSEN

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Rene ADLER	15.01.85
33	Tomasz BOBEL (Pol)	29.12.74
22	Benedikt FERNANDEZ	08.01.85
36	Fabian GIEFER	17.05.90
DEFENDERS		
27	Gonzalo CASTRO	11.06.87
5	Manuel FRIEDRICH	13.09.79
4	Sami HYYPIA (Fin)	07.10.73
24	Michal KADLEC (CzR)	13.12.84
3	Stefan REINARTZ	01.01.89
2	Daniel SCHWAAB	23.08.88
17	Domagoj VIDA (Cro)	29.04.89
MIDFIELDERS		
14	Hanno BALITSCH	02.01.81
13	Michael BALLACK	26.09.76
7	Tranquillo BARNETTA (Swi)	22.05.85
8	Lars BENDER	27.04.89
28	Burak KAPLAN (Tur)	01.02.90
10	RENATO AUGUSTO (Bra)	08.02.88
6	Simon ROLFES	21.01.82
18	Sidney SAM	31.01.88
23	Arturo VIDAL (Chl)	22.05.87
FORWARDS		
19	Eren DERDIYOK (Swi)	12.06.88
9	Patrick HELMES	01.03.84
31	Nicolai JORGENSEN (Den)	15.01.91
11	Stefan KIESSLING	25.01.84
COACH		
	Jupp HEYNCKES	09.05.45

BAYERN MUNICH

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Hans-Jorg BUTT	28.05.74
35	Thomas KRAFT	22.07.88
22	Rouven SATTELMAIER	07.08.87
DEFENDERS		
28	Holger BADSTUBER	13.03.89
4	Edson BRAAFHEID (Hol)	08.04.83
2	BRENO (Bra)	13.10.89
26	Diego CONTENTO (Ita)	01.05.90
6	Martin DEMICHELIS (Arg)	20.12.80
21	Philipp LAHM	11.11.83
5	Daniel VAN BUYTEN (Blg)	07.02.78
MIDFIELDERS		
27	David ALABA (Aut)	24.06.92
8	Hamit ALTINTOP (Tur)	08.12.82
32	Maximilian HAAS	07.12.85
39	Toni KROOS	04.01.90
16	Andreas OTTL	01.03.85
23	Danijel PRANJIC (Cro)	02.12.81
7	Franck RIBERY (Fra)	01.04.83
10	Arjen ROBBEN (Hol)	23.01.84
31	Bastian SCHWEINSTEIGER	01.08.84
44	Anatoliy TYMOSHCHUK (Ukr)	30.03.79
17	Mark VAN BOMMEL (Hol)	22.04.77
FORWARDS		
33	Mario GOMEZ	10.07.85
18	Miroslav KLOSE	09.06.78
25	Thomas MULLER	13.09.89
11	Ivica OLIC (Cro)	14.09.79
COACH		
	Louis VAN GAAL (Hol)	08.08.51

BORUSSIA DORTMUND

GOALKEEPERS		
41	Johannes FOCHER	20.01.90
20	Mitchell LANGERAK (Aus)	22.08.88
1	Roman WEIDENFELLER	06.08.80
DEFENDERS		
17	DEDE (Bra)	18.04.78
44	Marc HORNSCHUH	02.03.91
15	Mats HUMMELS	16.12.88
25	Patrick OWOMOYELA	05.11.79
26	Lukasz PISZCZEK (Pol)	03.06.85
27	Felipe SANTANA (Bra)	17.03.86
29	Marcel SCHMELZER	22.01.88
2	Lasse SOBIECH	18.01.91
4	Neven SUBOTIC (Ser)	10.12.88
MIDFIELDERS		
22	Sven BENDER	27.04.89
16	Jakub BLASZCZYKOWSKI (Pol)	14.12.85
32	Antonio DA SILVA (Bra)	13.06.78
14	Markus FEULNER	12.02.82
31	Mario GOTZE	03.06.92
30	Tamas HAJNAL (Hun)	15.03.81
5	Sebastien KEHL	13.02.80
6	Florian KRINGE	18.08.82
36	Yasin OZTEKIN (Tur)	19.03.87
8	Nuri SAHIN (Tur)	05.09.88
FORWARDS		
18	Lucas BARRIOS (Par)	13.11.84
28	Daniel GINCZEK	13.04.91
19	Kevin GROSSKREUTZ	19.07.88
23	Shinji KAGAWA (Jap)	17.03.89
13	Damien LE TALLEC (Fra)	14.10.90
7	Robert LEWANDOWSKI (Pol)	21.08.88
39	Marco STIEPERMANN	09.02.91
10	Mohamed ZIDAN (Egy)	11.12.81
COACH		
	Jurgen KLOPP	16.06.67

BORUSSIA MONCHENGLADBACH

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Logan BAILLY (Blg)	27.12.85
1	Christofer HEIMEROTH	01.08.81
21	Marc-Andre TER STEGEN	30.04.92
DEFENDERS		
5	ANDERSON (Bra)	10.01.88
4	Roel BROUWERS (Hol)	28.11.81
6	Jan-Ingwer CALLSEN-BRACKER	23.09.84
3	Filip DAEMS (Blg)	31.10.78
31	DANTE (Bra)	18.10.83
23	Christian DORDA	06.12.88
17	Bernhard JANECZEK (Aut)	10.03.92
20	Jean-Sebastien JAURES (Fra)	30.09.77
22	Tobias LEVELS	22.11.86
2	Sebastian SCHACHTEN	06.11.84
7	Paul STALTERI (Can)	18.10.77
27	Jens WISSING	02.01.88
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Juan ARANGO (Ven)	17.05.80
26	Michael BRADLEY (USA)	31.07.87
15	Patrick HERRMANN	12.02.91
24	Tony JANTSCHKE	07.04.90
14	Thorben MARX	01.06.81
8	Marcel MEEUWIS (Hol)	31.10.80
13	Roman NEUSTADTER	18.02.88
11	Marco REUS	31.05.89
FORWARDS		
29	Fabian BACKER	25.05.90
9	Raul BOBADILLA (Arg)	18.06.87
10	Igor DE CAMARGO (Bra)	12.05.83
25	Mohammadou IDRISSOU (Cam)	08.03.80
32	Elias KACHUNGA	22.04.92
40	Karim MATMOUR (Alg)	25.06.85
COACH		
	Michael FRONTZECK	26.03.64

EINTRACHT FRANKFURT

GOALKEEPERS		
22	Ralf FAHRMANN	27.09.88
1	Oka NIKOLOV (Mac)	25.05.74
26	Andreas ROSSI	20.02.88
DEFENDERS		
29	CHRIS (Bra)	25.08.78
4	Maik FRANZ	05.08.81
24	Sebastian JUNG	22.06.90
2	Patrick OCHS	14.05.84
23	Marco RUSS	04.08.85
31	Giorgos TZAVELLAS (Gre)	26.11.87
5	Aleksander VASOSKI (Mac)	27.11.79
MIDFIELDERS		
8	Zlatan BAJRAMOVIC (Bos)	12.08.79
30	CAIO (Bra)	29.05.86
13	Ricardo CLARK (USA)	10.02.83
28	Sonny KITTEL	06.01.93
7	Benjamin KOHLER	04.08.80
11	Umit KORKMAZ (Aut)	17.09.85
14	Alexander MEIER	17.01.83
20	Sebastian RODE	11.10.90
27	Pirmin SCHWEGLER (Swi)	09.03.87
33	Markus STEINHOFER	07.03.86
36	Marcel TITSCH-RIVERO	11.02.89
FORWARDS		
10	Halil ALTINTOP (Tur)	08.12.82
35	Marcos ALVAREZ	30.09.91
18	Ioannis AMANATIDIS (Gre)	03.12.81
17	Martin FENIN (CzR)	16.04.87
21	Theofanis GEKAS (Gre)	23.05.80
25	Marcel HELLER	19.01.86
34	Cenk TOSUN	07.06.91
COACH		
	Michael SKIBBE	04.08.65

KOLN

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Faryd MONDRAGON (Col)	21.06.71
34	Miro VARVODIC (Cro)	15.05.89
DEFENDERS		
12	ANDREZINHO (Bra)	09.10.81
36	Bienvenue BASALA-MAZANA	02.01.92
2	Miso BRECKO (Sln)	01.05.84
28	Carsten CULLMAN	05.03.76
21	Pedro GEROMEL (Bra)	21.09.85
18	Kostas GIANNOULIS (Gre)	09.12.87
23	Kevin McKENNA (Can)	21.01.80
3	Youssef MOHAMAD (Lby)	01.07.80
32	Stephan SALGER	30.01.90
16	Christopher SCHORCH	30.01.89
35	Alexander VAASSEN	09.12.91
MIDFIELDERS		
13	Daniel BROSINSKI	17.07.88
29	Christopher BUCHTMANN	25.04.92
27	Christian CLEMENS	04.08.91
22	Fabrice EHRET (Fra)	28.09.79
19	Mato JAJALO (Cro)	25.05.88
5	Martin LANIG	11.07.84
25	Adam MATUSCHYK (Pol)	14.02.89
33	Michael NIEDRIG	12.01.80
8	Armando PETIT (Por)	25.09.76
17	Kevin PEZZONI	22.03.89
6	Taner YALCIN	18.02.90
FORWARDS		
20	Adil CHIHI	21.02.88
7	Sebastien FRIES	23.04.85
14	Alexandrou IONITA (Rom)	05.08.89
9	Manneseh ISHIAKU (Nig)	09.01.83
11	Milivoje NOVAKOVIC (Sln)	18.05.79
10	Lukas PODOLSKI	04.06.85
COACH		
	Zvonimir SOLDO (Cro)	02.11.67

MAINZ

GOALKEEPERS		
33	Heinz MULLER	30.05.78
1	Martin PIECKENHAGEN	15.11.71
29	Christian WETKLO	11.01.80
DEFENDERS		
26	Niko BUNGERT	24.10.86
3	Malik FATHI	29.10.83
22	Christian FUCHS (Aut)	07.04.86
5	Eugen GOPKO	05.01.91
15	Jan KIRCHHOFF	01.10.90
24	Zsolt LOW (Hun)	29.04.79
4	Nikolce NOVESKI (Mac)	28.04.79
2	Bo SVENSSON (Den)	04.08.79
8	Radoslav ZABAVNIK (Slk)	16.09.80
MIDFIELDERS		
6	Marco CALIGIURI	14.04.84
16	Florian HELLER	10.03.82
18	Lewis HOLTBY	18.09.90
25	Andreas IVANSCHITZ (Aut)	15.10.83
21	Miroslav KARHAN (Slk)	21.06.76
7	Eugen POLANSKI	17.03.86
23	Marcel RISSE	17.12.89
10	Jan SIMAK (CzR)	13.10.78
19	Elkin SOTO (Col)	04.08.80
FORWARDS		
9	Sami ALLAGUI	28.05.86
17	Haruna BABANGIDA (Nig)	01.10.82
11	Morten RASMUSSEN (Den)	31.01.85
14	Andre SCHURRLE	06.11.90
35	Petar SLISKOVIC (Cro)	21.02.91
28	Adam SZALAI (Hun)	09.12.87
COACH		
	Thomas TUCHEL	29.08.73

NURNBERG

GOALKEEPERS		
32	Daniel BATZ	12.01.91
12	Daniel KLEWER	04.03.77
1	Raphael SCHAFER	30.01.79
30	Alexander STEPHAN	15.09.86
DEFENDERS		
20	Pascal BIELER	26.02.86
33	Felicio BROWN FORBES	28.08.91
13	Jens HEGELER	22.01.88
6	Dominic MAROH	04.03.87
3	Per NILSSON (Swi)	15.09.82
25	Javier PINOLA (Arg)	24.02.83
40	Marvin PLATTENHARDT	26.01.92
5	Andreas WOLF	12.06.82
38	Philipp WOLLSCHEID	06.03.89
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Almog COHEN (Isr)	01.09.88
37	Mehmet EKICI	25.03.90
17	Mike FRANTZ	14.10.86
22	Ilkay GUNDOGAN	24.10.90
16	Juri JUDT	24.07.86
11	Marek MINTAL (Slk)	02.09.77
15	Christoph SAUTER	03.08.91
2	Timmy SIMONS (Blg)	11.12.76
21	Dario VIDOSIC (Aus)	08.04.87
FORWARDS		
19	Isaac BOAKYE (Gha)	26.11.81
10	Albert BUNJAKU (Swi)	29.11.83
8	Christian EIGLER	01.01.84
14	Robert MAK (Slk)	08.03.91
29	Rubin OKOTIE (Aut)	06.06.87
23	Julian SCHIEBER	13.02.89
COACH		
	Dieter HECKING	12.09.64

ST PAULI

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Mathias HAIN	31.12.72
26	Thomas KESSLER	20.01.86
1	Benedikt PLIQUETT	20.12.84
34	Arvid SCHENK	28.07.89
DEFENDERS		
32	Davidson DROBO-AMPEM (Gha)	26.03.88
14	Marcel EGER	23.03.83
11	Ralph GUNESCH	02.09.83
27	Jan-Philipp KALLA	06.08.86
2	Florian LECHNER	03.03.81
4	Fabio MORENA	19.03.80
6	Bastian OCZIPKA	12.01.89
24	Carsten ROTHENBACH	03.09.80
16	Markus THORANDT	01.04.81
28	Moritz VOLZ	21.01.83
5	Carlos ZAMBRANO (Per)	10.07.89
MIDFIELDERS		
17	Fabian BOLL	16.06.79
8	Florian BRUNS	21.08.79
30	Dennis DAUBE	11.07.89
18	Max KRUSE	19.03.88
20	Mathias LEHMANN	28.05.83
12	Timo SCHULTZ	26.08.77
10	Charles TAKYI	12.11.84
FORWARDS		
13	Gerald ASAMOAH	03.10.78
22	Fin BARTELS	07.02.87
9	Marius EBBERS	04.01.78
7	Rouwen HENNINGS	28.08.87
23	Deniz NAKI	09.07.89
29	Nils PICHINOT	29.08.89
19	Richard SUKUTA-PASU	24.06.90
COACH		
	Holger STANISLAWSKI	26.09.69

SCHALKE

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Manuel NEUER	27.03.86
33	Mathias SCHOBER	08.04.76
36	Lars UNNERSTALL	20.07.90
DEFENDERS		
3	Sergio ESCUDERO (Spa)	02.09.89
6	Tim HOOGLAND	11.06.85
4	Benedikt HOWEDES	29.02.88
21	Christoph METZELDER	05.11.80
24	Christian PANDER	28.08.83
14	Kyriakos PAPADOPOULOS (Gre)	23.02.92
5	Nicolas PLESTAN (Fra)	02.06.81
2	Hans SARPEI (Gha)	28.06.76
22	Atsuto UCHIDA (Jap)	27.03.88
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Alexander BAUMJOHANN	23.01.87
27	Ciprian DEAC (Rom)	16.02.86
8	HAO Junmin (Chn)	24.03.87
23	Jermaine JONES (USA)	03.11.81
18	Jose Manuel JURADO (Spa)	29.06.86
30	Levan KENIA (Geo)	18.10.90
12	Peer KLUGE	22.11.80
32	Joel MATIP (Cam)	08.08.91
28	Christoph MORITZ	27.01.90
20	Vasilis PLIATSIKAS (Gre)	14.04.88
10	Ivan RAKITIC (Cro)	10.03.88
13	Lukas SCHMITZ	13.10.88
FORWARDS		
9	EDU (Bra)	30.11.81
17	Jefferson FARFAN (Per)	28.10.84
19	Mario GAVRANOVIC (Swi)	24.11.89
25	Klaas-Jan HUNTELAAR (Hol)	12.08.83
26	Erik JENDRISEK (Slk)	26.10.86
7	RAUL (Spa)	27.06.77
COACH		
	Felix MAGATH	26.07.53

FREIBURG

GOALKEEPERS		
37	Oliver BAUMANN	02.06.90
1	Simon POUPLIN (Fra)	28.05.85
26	Manuel SALZ	06.08.85
DEFENDERS		
15	Oliver BARTH	06.10.79
3	Felix BASTIANS	09.05.88
5	Heiko BUTSCHER	28.07.80
2	Pavel KRMAS (CzR)	03.03.80
24	Mensur MUJDZA (Cro)	28.03.84
35	Daniel SEREINIG (Aut)	10.05.82
58	Omer TOPRAK (Tur)	21.07.89
MIDFIELDERS		
6	Yacine ABDESSADKI (Mor)	01.01.81
20	Ivica BANOVIC (Cro)	02.08.80
40	Daniel CALIGIURI	15.01.88
18	Johannes FLUM	25.02.88
31	Nicolas HOFLER	09.03.90
11	Jonathan JAGER (Fra)	23.05.78
7	Cedric MAKIADI (DRC)	23.02.84
10	Maximilian NICU	25.11.82
14	Zvonko PAMIC (Cro)	04.02.91
21	Anton PUTSILO (Bls)	23.06.87
8	Jan ROSENTHAL	07.04.86
23	Julian SCHUSTER	15.04.85
28	Daniel WILLIAMS	08.03.89
FORWARDS		
13	Tommy BECHMANN (Den)	22.12.81
9	Papiss Demba CISSE (Sen)	03.06.85
27	Stefan REISINGER	14.09.81
22	Kisho YANO (Jap)	05.04.84
COACH		
	Robin DUTT	24.01.65

HAMBURG

GOALKEEPERS		
45	Jaroslav DROBNY (CzR)	09.10.79
29	Tom MICKEL	19.04.89
1	Frank ROST	30.06.73
DEFENDERS		
6	Dennis AOGO	14.01.87
30	Collin BENJAMIN (Nam)	03.08.78
34	Muhamed BESIC (Bos)	10.09.92
20	Guy DEMEL (IvC)	13.06.81
2	Dennis DIEKMEIER	20.10.89
7	Marcell JANSEN	04.11.85
5	Joris MATHIJSEN (Hol)	05.04.80
19	Lennard SOWAH	23.08.92
33	Miroslav STEPANEK (CzR)	15.01.90
4	Heiko WESTERMANN	14.08.83
MIDFIELDERS		
18	Romeo CASTELEN (Hol)	03.05.83
14	David JAROLIM (CzR)	17.05.79
44	Gojko KACAR (Ser)	26.01.87
21	Jonathan PITROIPA (BuF)	12.04.86
25	Tomas RINCON (Ven)	13.01.88
13	Robert TESCHE	27.05.87
15	Piotr TROCHOWSKI	22.03.84
8	ZE ROBERTO (Bra)	06.07.74
FORWARDS		
17	Maxim CHOUPO-MOTING (Cam)	23.03.89
11	Eljero ELIA (Hol)	13.02.87
9	Paolo GUERRERO (Per)	01.01.84
10	Mladen PETRIC (Cro)	01.01.81
40	SON Heung-Min (SKo)	08.07.92
35	Tunay TORUN (Tur)	21.04.90
22	Ruud VAN NISTELROOY (Hol)	01.07.76
COACH		
	Armin VEH	01.02.61

HANNOVER

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Florian FROMLOWITZ	02.07.86
14	Markus MILLER	08.04.82
20	Ron-Robert ZIELER	12.02.89
DEFENDERS		
35	Christopher AVEVOR	11.02.92
37	Felix BURMEISTER	09.03.90
23	Sofian CHAHED (Tun)	18.04.83
6	Steve CHERUNDOLO (USA)	19.02.79
15	Constant DJAPKA (IvC)	17.10.86
5	Mario EGGIMANN (Swi)	24.01.81
21	Karim HAGGUI (Tun)	20.01.84
31	Tim HOFMANN	09.06.88
4	Emanuel POGATETZ (Aut)	16.01.83
34	Konstantin RAUSCH	15.03.90
19	Christian SCHULZ	01.04.83
MIDFIELDERS		
3	Leon ANDREASEN (Den)	23.04.83
16	DaMarcus BEASLEY (USA)	24.05.82
30	CARLITOS (Por)	06.09.82
41	Henrik ERNST	02.09.86
36	Willi EVSEEV	14.02.92
8	Altin LALA (Alb)	18.11.75
7	Sergio PINTO (Por)	16.10.80
22	Valdet RAMA	20.11.87
33	Manuel SCHMIEDEBACH	05.12.88
28	Lars STINDL	26.08.88
FORWARDS		
25	Mohammed ABDELLAOUE (Nor)	23.10.85
32	Mikael FORSSELL (Fin)	15.03.81
9	Mike HANKE	05.11.83
13	Jan SCHLAUDRAFF	18.07.83
17	Moritz STOPPELKAMP	11.12.86
11	Didier YA KONAN (IvC)	25.02.84
COACH		
	Mirko SLOMKA	19.02.67

HOFFENHEIM

GOALKEEPERS		
30	Jens GRAHL	22.09.88
1	Daniel HAAS	01.08.83
27	Ramazan OZCAN (Aut)	28.06.84
33	Tom STARKE	18.03.81
DEFENDERS		
2	Andreas BECK	13.03.87
5	Marvin COMPPER	14.06.85
8	Christian EICHNER	24.11.82
37	Manuel GULDE	12.02.91
26	Andreas IBERTSBERGER (Aut)	27.07.82
3	Matthias JAISSLE	05.04.88
14	Josip SIMUNIC (Cro)	18.02.78
25	Isaac VORSAH (Gha)	21.06.88
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Luiz GUSTAVO (Bra)	23.07.87
6	Sebastian RUDY	28.02.90
23	Sejad SALIHOVIC (Bos)	08.10.84
11	Gylfi SIGURDSSON (Ice)	09.09.89
7	Boris VUKCEVIC	16.03.90
17	Tobias WEIS	30.07.85
FORWARDS		
9	Demba BA (Sen)	25.05.85
19	Vedad IBISEVIC (Bos)	06.08.84
15	Peniel MLAPA (Tog)	20.02.91
20	Chinedu OBASI (Nig)	01.06.86
18	Prince TAGOE (Gha)	09.11.86
34	Denis THOMALLA	16.08.92
COACH		
	Ralf RANGNICK	29.06.58

KAISERSLAUTERN

GOALKEEPERS		
27	Marco KNALLER (Aut)	26.03.87
1	Tobias SIPPEL	22.03.88
29	Kevin TRAPP	08.07.90
DEFENDERS		
6	Mathias ABEL	22.06.81
5	Martin AMEDICK	06.09.82
17	Alexander BUGERA	08.08.78
28	Marcel CORREIA (Por)	16.05.89
23	Florian DICK	09.11.84
3	Leon JESSEN (Den)	11.06.86
13	Thanos PETSOS (Gre)	05.06.91
20	RODNEI (Bra)	11.09.85
2	Jan SIMUNEK (CzR)	20.02.87
MIDFIELDERS		
10	Chadlj AMRI (Fra)	14.12.84
19	Jiri BILEK (CzR)	04.11.83
21	Pierre DE WIT	26.09.87
18	Danny FUCHS	25.02.76
22	Ivo ILICEVIC (Cro)	14.11.86
7	Oliver KIRCH	21.08.82
16	Jan MORAVEK (CzR)	01.11.89
25	Steven RIVIC (Cro)	09.08.85
4	Bastian SCHULZ	10.07.85
38	Alan STULIN (Pol)	05.06.90
8	Christian TIFFERT	18.02.82
15	Clemens WALCH (Aut)	10.07.87
FORWARDS		
33	Erwin HOFFER (Aut)	14.04.87
9	Srdjan LAKIC (Cro)	02.10.83
11	Ilijan MICANSKI (Pol)	20.12.85
32	Adam NEMEC (Slk)	02.09.85
26	Steven ZELLNER	14.03.91
COACH		
	Marco KURZ	16.05.69

STUTTGART

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Sven ULREICH	03.08.88
12	Alexander STOLZ	13.10.83
23	Marc ZIEGLER	13.06.76
DEFENDERS		
15	Arthur BOKA (IvC)	02.04.83
21	Khalid BOULAHROUZ (Hol)	28.12.81
27	Stefano CELOZZI	02.11.88
2	Philipp DEGEN (Swi)	15.02.83
17	Mathieu DELPIERRE (Fra)	26.04.81
3	Cristian MOLINARO (Ita)	30.07.83
6	Georg NIEDERMEIER	26.02.86
5	Serdar TASCI	24.04.87
MIDFIELDERS		
11	Johan AUDEL (Fra)	12.12.83
24	Mamadou BAH (Gui)	25.04.88
16	Mauro CAMORANESI (Ita)	04.10.76
26	Daniel DIDAVI	21.02.90
25	ELSON (Bra)	16.11.81
14	Patrick FUNK	11.02.90
13	Timo GEBHART	12.04.89
20	Christian GENTNER	14.08.85
8	Zdravko KUZMANOVIC (Ser)	22.09.87
35	Christian TRASCH	01.09.87
FORWARDS		
18	CACAU	27.03.81
7	Martin HARNIK (Aut)	10.06.87
9	Ciprian MARICA (Rom)	02.10.85
29	Pavel POGREBNYAK (Rus)	08.11.83
CARETAKER COACH		
	Jens KELLER	24.11.70

WERDER BREMEN

GOALKEEPERS		
21	Sebastian MIELITZ	18.07.89
33	Christian VANDER	24.10.80
1	Tim WIESE	17.12.81
DEFENDERS		
27	Niklas ANDERSEN	04.08.88
2	Sebastian BOENISCH	01.02.87
8	Clemens FRITZ	07.12.80
29	Per MERTESACKER	29.09.84
4	NALDO (Bra)	10.09.82
3	Petri PASANEN (Fin)	24.09.80
15	Sebastian PRODL (Aut)	21.06.87
41	Dominik SCHMIDT	01.07.87
16	Mikael SILVESTRE (Fra)	09.08.77
MIDFIELDERS		
44	Philipp BARGFREDE	03.03.89
6	Tim BOROWSKI	02.05.80
22	Torsten FRINGS	22.11.76
14	Aaron HUNT	04.09.86
17	Said HUSEJINOVIC (Bos)	13.05.88
20	Daniel JENSEN (Den)	25.06.79
18	Felix KROOS	12.03.91
10	Marko MARIN	13.03.89
35	Florian TRINKS	11.03.92
5	WESLEY (Bra)	24.06.87
FORWARDS		
23	Hugo ALMEIDA (Por)	23.05.84
7	Marko ARNAUTOVIC (Aut)	19.04.89
46	Onur AYIK (Tur)	28.01.90
24	Claudio PIZARRO (Per)	03.10.78
28	Kevin SCHINDLER	21.05.88
43	Pascal TESTROET	26.09.90
36	Lennart THY	25.02.92
19	Sandro WAGNER	29.11.87
COACH		
	Thomas SCHAFF	30.04.61

WOLFSBURG ???

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Diego BENAGLIO (Swi)	08.09.83
35	Marwin HITZ (Swi)	18.09.87
12	Andre LENZ	19.11.73
DEFENDERS		
43	Andrea BARZAGLI (Ita)	08.05.81
3	Arne FRIEDRICH	29.05.79
16	Fabian JOHNSON	11.12.87
34	Simon KJAER (Den)	26.03.89
17	Alexander MADLUNG	11.07.82
19	Peter PEKARIK (Slk)	30.10.86
4	Marcel SCHAFER	07.06.84
MIDFIELDERS		
11	CICERO (Bra)	26.08.84
14	Tolga CIGERCI	23.03.92
28	DIEGO (Bra)	28.02.85
13	Makoto HASEBE (Jap)	18.01.84
7	JOSUE (Bra)	19.07.79
8	Thomas KAHLENBERG (Den)	20.03.83
20	Sascha RIETHER	23.03.83
32	Sebastian SCHINDZIELORZ	21.01.79
15	Karim ZIANI (Alg)	17.08.82
FORWARDS		
21	Nassim BEN KHALIFA (Swi)	13.01.92
31	CAIUBY (Bra)	14.07.88
24	Ashkan DEJAGAH	05.07.86
9	Edin DZEKO (Bos)	17.03.86
23	GRAFITE (Bra)	02.04.79
18	Mario MANDZUKIC (Cro)	21.05.86
COACH		
	Steve McCLAREN (Eng)	03.05.61

BARI

GOALKEEPERS	
78 Mauro BOERCHIO	16.08.89
1 Jean-Francois GILLET (Blg)	31.05.79
25 Daniele PADELLI	29.10.85
DEFENDERS	
15 Nicola BELMONTE	15.04.87
5 Andrea MASIELLO	05.02.86
21 Alessandro PARISI	15.04.77
84 Andrea RAGGI	24.06.84
6 Michele RINALDI	09.01.87
33 Marco ROSSI	30.09.87
MIDFIELDERS	
4 Sergio ALMIRON (Arg)	07.11.80
90 Edgar ALVAREZ (Hon)	08.01.80
19 Marco CRIMI	17.03.90
8 Massimo DONATI	26.03.81
28 Gianluca GALASSO	18.01.84
14 Alessandro GAZZI	28.01.83
32 JAIME (Spa)	31.07.90
17 Salvatore MASIELLO	31.01.82
13 Nico PULZETTI	13.02.84
29 Nicola STRAMBELLI	06.09.88
FORWARDS	
10 BARRETO (Bra)	12.07.85
18 Francesco CAPUTO	06.08.87
9 Jose Ignacio CASTILLO (Arg)	04.11.75
91 Marco D'ALESSANDRO	17.02.91
11 Abdelkader GHEZZAL (Alg)	05.12.84
20 Vitali KUTUZOV (Bls)	20.03.80
23 Antonio LANGELLA	30.03.77
30 Luigi RANA	06.11.86
7 Emanuel RIVAS (Arg)	17.03.83
COACH	
Giampiero VENTURA	14.01.48

BOLOGNA

GOALKEEPERS	
44 Filippo LOMBARDI	22.04.90
22 Cristiano LUPATELLI	21.06.78
1 Emiliano VIVIANO	01.12.85
DEFENDERS	
6 Miguel BRITOS (Uru)	17.07.85
21 Nicolo CHERUBIN	02.12.86
16 Andrea ESPOSITO	17.05.86
25 Nemanja MITROVIC (Sln)	15.10.92
18 Vangelis MORAS (Gre)	26.08.81
3 Archimede MORLEO	26.06.83
13 Daniele PORTANOVA	17.12.78
17 Ivan RADOVANOVIC (Ser)	29.08.88
19 Matteo RUBIN	09.07.87
MIDFIELDERS	
24 Antonio BUSCE	12.12.75
32 Federico CASARINI	07.08.89
7 Francesco DELLA ROCCA	14.09.87
12 Albin EKDAL (Swe)	28.07.89
8 Gyorgy GARICS (Aut)	08.03.84
4 Rene KRHIN (Sln)	21.05.90
26 Gaby MUDINGAYI (Blg)	01.10.81
5 Massimo MUTARELLI	13.01.78
15 Diego PEREZ (Uru)	18.05.80
14 Andrea PISANU	07.01.82
10 Gaston RAMIREZ (Uru)	02.12.90
77 Luca SILIGARDI	26.01.88
FORWARDS	
9 Marco DI VAIO	15.07.76
11 Manuel GAVILAN (Spa)	12.07.91
20 Henry GIMENEZ (URU)	13.03.86
69 Riccardo MEGGIORINI	04.09.85
35 Daniele PAPONI	16.04.88
COACH	
Alberto MALESANI	05.06.54

BRESCIA

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Michele ARCARI	27.06.78
12 Nicola LEALI	17.02.93
22 Matteo SERENI	11.02.75
DEFENDERS	
6 Francesco BEGA	26.10.74
28 Gaetano BERARDI (Swi)	21.08.88
23 Simone DALLAMANO	25.11.83
3 Fabio DAPRELA (Swi)	19.02.91
21 Sebastian DE MAIO (Fra)	05.03.87
27 Frank KAMALU (Nig)	17.01.91
16 Victor Hugo MARECO (Par)	26.02.84
26 Gilberto MARTINEZ (CR)	01.10.79
15 Marco ZAMBELLI	22.08.85
5 Jonathan ZEBINA (Fra)	19.07.78
2 Davide ZOBOLI	08.10.81
MIDFIELDERS	
17 Davide BAIOCCO	08.05.75
19 Alessandro BUDEL	25.02.81
11 Nicolas CORDOVA (Chl)	09.02.79
4 Antonio FILIPPINI	03.07.73
56 Perparim HETEMAJ (Fin)	12.12.86
33 Panagiotis KONE (Gre)	26.07.87
8 Adam VASS (Hun)	09.08.86
FORWARDS	
29 Juan ANTONIO (Arg)	05.01.88
9 Andrea CARACCIOLO	18.09.81
32 Alessandro DIAMANTI	02.05.83
7 EDER (Bra)	19.11.86
14 Robert FECZESIN (Hun)	22.02.86
18 Davide POSSANZINI	09.02.76
31 Riccardo TADDEI	05.09.80
COACH	
Giuseppe IACHINI	07.05.64

CAGLIARI

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Michael AGAZZI	03.07.84
22 Federico MARCHETTI	07.02.83
25 Ivan PELIZZOLI	18.11.80
DEFENDERS	
31 Alessandro AGOSTINI	23.07.79
3 Lorenzo ARIAUDO	11.06.89
13 Davide ASTORI	07.01.87
2 Dario BIASI	24.08.79
21 Michele CANINI	05.06.85
26 Paolo DAMETTO	28.06.93
28 Daniele MAGLIOCCHETTI	11.05.86
29 Bruno MARTIGNONI (Swi)	13.12.92
24 Gabriele PERICO	11.03.84
14 Francesco PISANO	29.04.86
MIDFIELDERS	
8 Davide BIONDINI	24.01.83
5 Daniele CONTI	09.01.79
7 Andrea COSSU	30.05.80
15 Daniele GIORICO	01.01.92
20 Simon LANER	28.01.84
10 Andrea LAZZARI	03.12.84
4 Radja NAINGGOLAN (Blg)	04.05.88
23 Alex PINARDI	05.09.80
16 Mikhail SIVAKOV (Bls)	16.01.88
FORWARDS	
9 Robert ACQUAFRESCA	11.09.87
32 Alessandro MATRI	15.08.84
18 NENE (Bra)	28.07.83
30 Daniele RAGATZU	21.09.91
COACH	
Pierpaolo BISOLI	20.11.66

CATANIA

GOALKEEPERS	
21 Mariano ANDUJAR (Arg)	30.07.83
30 Andrea CAMPAGNOLO	17.06.78
1 Tomas KOSICKY (Slk)	11.03.86
DEFENDERS	
22 Pablo ALVAREZ (Arg)	17.04.84
18 Blazej AUGUSTYN (Pol)	26.01.88
14 Giuseppe BELLUSCI	21.08.89
33 Ciro CAPUANO	10.07.81
12 Giovanni MARCHESE	17.10.84
2 Alessandro POTENZA	08.03.84
6 Matias SILVESTRE (Arg)	25.09.84
3 Nicolas SPOLLI (Arg)	20.02.83
23 Christian TERLIZZI	22.11.79
MIDFIELDERS	
10 Pablo BARRIENTOS (Arg)	17.01.85
27 Marco BIAGIANTI	19.04.84
5 Ezequiel CARBONI (Arg)	04.04.79
4 Gennaro DELVECCHIO	25.03.78
17 Alejandro GOMEZ (Arg)	15.02.88
13 Mariano IZCO (Arg)	13.03.83
8 Pablo LEDESMA (Arg)	04.02.84
16 Cristian LLAMA (Arg)	26.06.86
20 Raphael MARTINHO (Bra)	22.01.88
24 Simone PESCE	10.07.82
19 Adrian RICCHIUTI (Arg)	30.06.78
26 Fabio SCIACCA	16.05.89
FORWARDS	
9 Mirco ANTENUCCI	08.09.84
11 Maxi LOPEZ (Arg)	04.03.84
7 Giuseppe MASCARA	22.08.79
15 Takayuki MORIMOTO (Jap)	07.05.88
COACH	
Marco GIAMPAOLO	02.08.67

JUVENTUS

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Gianluigi BUFFON	28.01.78
31 Marco COSTANTINO	08.05.91
13 Alex MANNINGER (Aut)	04.06.77
30 Marco STORARI	07.01.77
DEFENDERS	
19 Leonardo BONUCCI	01.05.87
3 Giorgio CHIELLINI	14.08.84
34 Vittorio FERRERO	25.02.91
6 Fabio GROSSO	28.11.77
21 Zdenek GRYGERA (CzR)	14.05.80
33 Nicola LEGROTTAGLIE	20.10.76
2 Marco MOTTA	14.05.86
26 Leandro RINAUDO	09.05.83
17 Armand TRAORE (Fra)	08.10.89
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Alberto AQUILANI	07.07.84
37 Filippo BONIPERTI	27.09.91
35 Marcel BUCHEL (Aut)	18.03.91
29 Paolo DE CEGLIE	17.09.86
36 Manuel GIANDONATO	10.10.91
27 Milos KRASIC (Ser)	01.11.84
8 Claudio MARCHISIO	19.01.86
4 Felipe MELO (Bra)	26.08.83
23 Simone PEPE	30.08.83
7 Hasan SALIHAMIDZIC (Bos)	01.01.77
5 Mohamed SISSOKO (Mli)	22.01.85
FORWARDS	
11 AMAURI	03.06.80
10 Alessandro DEL PIERO	09.11.74
9 Vincenzo IAQUINTA	21.11.79
20 Davide LANZAFAME	09.02.87
25 Jorge MARTINEZ (Uru)	05.04.83
18 Fabio QUAGLIARELLA	31.01.83
COACH	
Luigi DELNERI	23.08.50

LAZIO

GOALKEEPERS	
12 Tommaso BERNI	06.03.83
1 Albano BIZZARRI (Arg)	09.11.77
86 Fernando MUSLERA (Uru)	16.06.86
DEFENDERS	
20 Giuseppe BIAVA	08.05.77
39 Luis Pedro CAVANDA (Blg)	02.01.90
21 Mobido DIAKHITE (Fra)	02.03.87
3 Andre DIAS (Bra)	15.05.79
14 Javier GARRIDO	15.03.85
2 Stephan LICHTSTEINER (Swi)	16.01.84
26 Stefan RADU (Rom)	22.10.86
13 Guglielmo STENDARDO	06.05.81
MIDFIELDERS	
23 Mark BRESCIANO (Aut)	11.02.80
32 Cristian BROCCHI	30.01.76
4 Fabio FIRMANI	26.05.78
15 Alvaro GONZALEZ (Uru)	29.10.84
8 HERNANES (Bra)	29.05.85
24 Cristian LEDESMA (Arg)	24.09.82
11 MATUZALEM (Bra)	10.06.80
68 Christian MANFREDINI	05.01.75
6 Stefano MAURI	08.01.80
27 Mourad MEGHNI (Alg)	16.04.84
16 Riccardo PERPETUINI	04.08.90
5 Lionel SCALONI (Arg)	16.05.78
FORWARDS	
7 Gonzalo BARRETO (Uru)	22.01.92
81 Simone DEL NERO	04.08.81
22 Sergio FLOCCARI	12.11.81
17 Pasquale FOGGIA	03.06.83
18 Libor KOZAK (CzR)	30.05.89
9 Tommaso ROCCHI	19.09.77
10 Mauro ZARATE (Arg)	18.03.87
COACH	
Edoardo REJA	10.10.45

LECCE

GOALKEEPERS	
81 Massimiliano BENASSI	11.11.79
25 Davide PETRACHI	14.08.86
22 Antonio ROSATI	26.06.83
DEFENDERS	
28 Davide BRIVIO	17.03.88
30 Souleymane DIAMOUTENE (Mli)	30.01.83
2 Giulio DONATI	05.02.90
13 Stefano FERRARIO	28.03.85
4 GUSTAVO (Bra)	19.02.82
6 Tore REGINIUSSEN (Nor)	10.06.86
33 Andrea RISPOLI	29.09.88
5 Simone SINI	09.04.92
MIDFIELDERS	
7 Bryan BERGOUGNOUX (Fra)	12.01.83
91 Andrea BERTOLACCI	11.01.91
32 Manuel COPPOLA	11.05.82
14 FABIANO (Bra)	18.01.82
18 Guillermo GIACOMAZZI (Uru)	21.11.77
51 Mauro GIARACUNI	12.08.92
3 Alberto GIULIATTO	17.09.83
21 Carlos GROSMULLER (Uru)	04.05.83
11 Djamel MESBAH (Alg)	09.10.84
8 Gianni MUNARI	24.06.83
15 Edward OFERE (Nig)	28.03.86
10 Ruben OLIVERA (Uru)	04.05.83
19 Ignacio PIATTI (Arg)	04.02.85
20 Giuseppe VIVES	14.07.80
FORWARDS	
23 Javier CHEVANTON (Uru)	12.08.80
9 Daniele CORVIA	22.11.84
27 David DI MICHELE	06.01.76
50 Luigi FALCONE	26.05.92
17 JEDA (Bra)	15.04.79
COACH	
Luigi DE CANIO	26.09.57

MILAN

GOALKEEPERS	
32 Christian ABBIATI	08.07.77
1 Marco AMELIA	02.04.82
30 Flavio ROMA	21.06.74
DEFENDERS	
77 Luca ANTONINI	04.02.82
25 Daniele BONERA	31.05.81
18 Marek JANKULOVSKI (CzR)	09.05.77
22 Bruno MONTELONGO (Uru)	12.09.87
13 Alessandro NESTA	19.03.76
17 Massimo ODDO	14.06.76
5 Oguchi ONYEWU (USA)	13.05.82
15 Sokratis PAPASTATHOPOULOS (Gre)	09.06.88
33 THIAGO SILVA (Bra)	22.09.84
76 Mario YEPES (Col)	13.01.76
19 Gianluca ZAMBROTTA	19.02.77
MIDFIELDERS	
20 Ignazio ABATE	12.11.86
23 Massimo AMBROSINI	29.05.77
27 Kevin-Prince BOATENG (Gha)	06.03.87
16 Mathieu FLAMINI (Fra)	07.03.84
8 Gennaro GATTUSO	09.01.78
21 Andrea PIRLO	19.05.79
10 Clarence SEEDORF (Hol)	01.04.76
14 Rodney STRASSER (SLe)	30.03.90
FORWARDS	
11 Zlatan IBRAHIMOVIC (Swe)	03.10.81
9 Filippo INZAGHI	09.08.73
90 Nnamdi ODUAMADI (Nig)	17.10.90
7 Alexandre PATO (Bra)	02.09.89
70 ROBINHO (Bra)	25.01.84
80 RONALDINHO (Bra)	21.03.80
COACH	
Massimiliano ALLEGRI	11.08.67

NAPOLI

GOALKEEPERS	
26 Morgan DE SANCTIS	26.03.77
33 Matteo GIANELLO	07.05.76
1 Gennaro IEZZO	08.06.73
DEFENDERS	
6 Salvatore ARONICA	20.01.78
14 Hugo CAMPAGNARO (Arg)	27.06.80
28 Paolo CANNAVARO	26.06.81
25 Emilson CRIBARI (Bra)	06.03.80
8 Andrea DOSSENA	11.09.81
2 Gianluca GRAVA	07.03.77
92 Armando IZZO	02.03.92
84 Erminio RULLO	19.02.84
13 Fabiano SANTACROCE	24.08.86
18 Camilo ZUNIGA (Col)	14.12.85
MIDFIELDERS	
80 Manuele BLASI	17.08.80
23 Walter GARGANO (Uru)	27.07.84
17 Marek HAMSIK (Slk)	27.07.87
11 Cristian MAGGIO	11.02.82
91 Raffaele MAIELLO	10.07.91
5 Michele PAZIENZA	05.08.82
95 Francesco SIMONETTI	14.06.91
77 Jose SOSA (Arg)	19.06.85
3 Luigi VITALE	05.10.87
21 Hassan YEBDA (Alg)	14.05.84
FORWARDS	
29 Cristian BUCCHI	13.02.77
7 Edinson CAVANI (Uru)	14.02.87
12 Nicolao DUMITRU	12.10.91
22 Ezequiel LAVEZZI (Arg)	03.05.85
99 Cristiano LUCARELLI	04.10.75
COACH	
Walter MAZZARRI	01.10.61

CESENA

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Francesco ANTONIOLI	14.09.69
28 Diego CAVALIERI (Bra)	01.12.82
91 Alex TEODORANI	21.09.91
DEFENDERS	
15 Yohan BENALOUANE (Fra)	28.03.87
13 Ivan FATIC (Mne)	21.08.88
31 Emanuele FONTE	06.08.92
6 Maurizio LAURO	12.03.81
5 Yuto NAGATOMO (Jap)	12.09.86
3 Maximiliano PELLEGRINO (Arg)	26.01.80
27 Martin PETRAS (Slk)	02.11.79
25 Steve VON BERGEN (Swi)	10.06.83
MIDFIELDERS	
4 Stephen APPIAH (Gha)	24.12.80
8 Fabio CASERTA	24.09.78
77 Luca CECCARELLI	24.03.83
14 Giuseppe COLUCCI	24.08.80
19 Nicolas GOROBSOV (Arg)	25.11.89
10 Luis JIMENEZ (Chl)	17.06.84
20 David MEZA (Par)	15.08.88
9 Gabriele PAONESSA	18.04.87
18 Marco PAROLO	25.01.85
44 Luigi PIANGERELLI	19.10.73
7 Ezequiel SCHELOTTO	23.05.89
34 Panagiotis TACHTSIDIS (Gre)	15.02.91
FORWARDS	
70 Erjon BOGDANI (Alb)	14.04.77
11 Igor BUDAN (Cro)	22.04.80
22 Franco CHIAVARINI (Arg)	18.02.80
23 Emanuele GIACCHERINI	05.05.85
16 Odion IGHALO (Nig)	16.06.89
17 Dominique MALONGA	08.01.89
COACH	
Massimo FICCADENTI	06.11.67

CHIEVO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Marco SILVESTRI	02.03.91
28 Stefano SORRENTINO	28.03.79
18 Lorenzo SQUIZZI	27.06.74
DEFENDERS	
3 Marco ANDREOLLI	10.06.86
12 Bostjan CESAR (Sln)	09.07.82
21 Nicolas FREY (Fra)	06.03.84
13 Bojan JOKIC (Sln)	17.05.86
5 Davide MANDELLI	28.06.77
4 Andrea MANTOVANI	22.06.84
2 Santiago MORERO (Arg)	18.04.82
89 RINCON (Bra)	31.05.87
20 Gennaro SARDO	03.05.79
MIDFIELDERS	
9 Simone BENTIVOGLIO	29.05.85
26 Mariano BOGLIACINO (Uru)	02.06.80
23 Kevin CONSTANT (Gui)	15.05.87
19 Francesco DETTORI	02.03.83
6 Gelson FERNANDES (Swi)	02.09.86
14 Roberto GUANA	21.01.81
10 LUCIANO (Bra)	03.12.75
7 Michele MARCOLINI	02.10.75
86 Ledian MEMUSHAJ (Alb)	17.12.86
16 Luca RIGONI	07.12.84
FORWARDS	
90 DIEGO FARIAS (Bra)	10.05.90
8 Mirco GASPARETTO	02.02.80
39 Domenico GIRARDI	02.05.85
11 Pablo GRANOCHE (Uru)	05.09.83
83 MARCOS (Bra)	19.12.83
80 Davide MOSCARDELLI	03.02.80
31 Sergio PELLISSIER	12.04.79
77 Cyril THEREAU (Fra)	24.04.83
COACH	
Stefano PIOLI	19.10.65

FIORENTINA

GOALKEEPERS	
35 Vlada AVRAMOV (Ser)	05.04.79
84 Artur BORUC (Pol)	20.02.80
1 Sebastien FREY (Fra)	18.03.80
12 MARCOS (Bra)	06.03.92
33 Andrea SECULIN	14.07.90
DEFENDERS	
25 Gianluca COMOTTO	16.10.78
29 Lorenzo DE SILVESTRI	23.05.88
16 FELIPE (Bra)	31.07.84
5 Alessandro GAMBERINI	27.08.81
2 Per KROLDRUP (Den)	31.07.79
14 Cesare NATALI	05.04.79
23 Manuel PASQUAL	13.03.82
6 Juan Manuel VARGAS (Per)	05.10.83
MIDFIELDERS	
19 Daniel Kofi AGYEI (Gha)	01.01.92
28 Mario BOLATTI (Arg)	17.02.85
21 Gaetano D'AGOSTINO	03.06.82
4 Marco DONADEL	21.04.83
30 Nikola GULAN (Ser)	23.03.89
22 Adem LJAJIC (Ser)	29.09.91
32 Marco MARCHIONNI	22.07.80
18 Riccardo MONTOLIVO	18.01.85
7 Mario SANTANA (Arg)	23.12.81
15 Cristiano ZANETTI	14.04.77
FORWARDS	
24 Alessio CERCI	23.07.87
9 Khouma EL BABACAR (Sen)	17.03.93
11 Alberto GILARDINO	05.07.82
8 Stevan JOVETIC (Mne)	02.11.89
10 Adrian MUTU (Rom)	08.01.79
27 Haris SEFEROVIC (Swi)	22.02.92
20 Papa WAIGO (Sen)	20.01.84
COACH	
Sinisa MIHAJLOVIC (Ser)	20.02.69

GENOA

GOALKEEPERS	
1 EDUARDO (Por)	19.09.82
88 Mattia PERIN	10.11.92
73 Alessio SCARPI	19.04.73
91 Roberto STILLO (Can)	15.03.91
DEFENDERS	
4 Domenico CRISCITO	30.12.86
3 Dario DAINELLI	06.09.79
13 Kakha KALADZE (Geo)	27.02.78
23 Francesco MODESTO	16.02.82
24 Emiliano MORETTI	11.06.81
18 RAFINHA (Bra)	07.09.85
16 Andrea RANOCCHIA	16.02.88
5 Nenad TOMOVIC (Ser)	30.08.87
68 Anthony VANDEN BORRE (Blg)	24.10.87
MIDFIELDERS	
2 CHICO (Spa)	06.03.87
71 Bosko JANKOVIC (Ser)	01.03.84
11 Houssine KHARJA (Mor)	09.11.82
20 Giandomenico MESTO	25.05.82
77 Omar MILANETTO	30.11.75
7 Marco ROSSI	01.04.78
42 Miguel VELOSO (Por)	11.05.86
36 Franco ZUCULINI (Arg)	05.09.90
FORWARDS	
22 Mattia DESTRO	20.03.91
8 Rodrigo PALACIO (Arg)	05.02.82
10 Raffaele PALLADINO	17.04.84
17 Gergely RUDOLF (Hun)	09.03.85
14 Giuseppe SCULLI	23.03.81
9 Luca TONI	26.05.77
COACH	
Gian Piero GASPERINI	26.01.58

INTERNAZIONALE

GOALKEEPERS	
12 Luca CASTELLAZZI	19.07.75
1 JULIO CESAR (Bra)	03.09.79
21 Paolo ORLANDONI	12.08.72
DEFENDERS	
36 Simone BENEDETTI	03.04.92
26 Christian CHIVU (Rom)	26.10.80
2 Ivan CORDOBA (Col)	11.08.76
6 LUCIO (Bra)	08.05.78
13 MAICON (Bra)	26.07.81
23 Marco MATERAZZI	19.08.73
40 Nwankwo OBIORA (Nig)	12.07.91
24 Nelson RIVAS (Col)	25.03.83
25 Walter SAMUEL (Arg)	23.03.78
39 Davide SANTON	02.01.91
4 Javier ZANETTI (Arg)	10.08.73
MIDFIELDERS	
34 Cristiano BIRAGHI	12.09.92
19 Esteban CAMBIASSO (Arg)	18.08.80
29 Philippe COUTINHO (Bra)	12.06.92
30 MANCINI (Bra)	01.08.80
17 McDonald MARIGA (Ken)	04.04.87
11 Sulley MUNTARI (Gha)	27.07.84
20 Joel Chukwuma OBI (Nig)	22.05.91
10 Wesley SNEIJDER (Hol)	09.06.84
5 Dejan STANKOVIC (Ser)	11.09.78
8 THIAGO MOTTA (Bra)	28.08.82
FORWARDS	
31 Denis ALIBEC (Rom)	05.01.91
88 Jonathan BIABIANY (Fra)	28.04.88
9 Samuel ETO'O (Cam)	10.03.81
22 Diego MILITO (Arg)	12.06.79
27 Goran PANDEV (Mac)	27.07.83
18 David SUAZO (Hon)	05.11.79
COACH	
Rafa BENITEZ (Spa)	16.04.60

PALERMO

GOALKEEPERS	
99 Francesco BENUSSI	15.10.81
12 Giacomo BRICHETTO	09.05.83
52 Francesco DI GREGORIO	25.09.92
46 Salvatore SIRIGU	12.01.87
DEFENDERS	
42 Federico BALZARETTI	06.12.81
5 Cesare BOVO	14.01.83
16 Mattia CASSANI	26.08.83
36 Matteo DARMIAN	02.12.89
29 Santiago GARCIA (Arg)	08.07.88
25 Kamil GLIK (Pol)	03.02.88
3 Dorin GOIAN (Rom)	12.12.80
6 Ezequiel MUNOZ (Arg)	08.10.90
95 Giuseppe PRESTIA	13.11.93
MIDFIELDERS	
94 Afriyie ACQUAH (Gha)	05.01.92
92 Francesco ARDIZZONE	17.02.92
21 Armin BACINOVIC (Sln)	24.10.89
72 Josip ILICIC (Sln)	29.01.88
4 Pajtim KASAMI (Swi)	02.06.92
11 Fabio LIVERANI	29.04.76
8 Giulio MIGLIACCIO	23.06.81
54 Walter MINEO	12.08.92
23 Antonio NOCERINO	09.04.85
27 Javier PASTORE (Arg)	20.06.89
7 Joao PEDRO (Bra)	09.03.92
24 Nicola RIGONI	12.11.90
FORWARDS	
53 Ignazio GATTUSO	24.04.92
9 Abel HERNANDEZ (Uru)	08.08.90
32 Massimo MACCARONE	06.09.79
10 Fabrizio MICCOLI	27.06.79
51 Mauricio PINILLA (Chl)	04.02.84
COACH	
Delio ROSSI	26.11.60

PARMA

GOALKEEPERS	
83 Antonio MIRANTE	08.07.83
1 Nicola PAVARINI	24.02.74
16 Stefano RUSSO	06.03.89
35 Antonio SANTURRO	29.02.92
DEFENDERS	
37 Davide ADORNI	09.08.92
13 ANGELO (Bra)	12.06.81
3 Luca ANTONELLI	11.02.87
51 Hernan DELLAFIORE	02.02.85
2 Rolf FELTSCHER (Swi)	06.10.90
18 Massimo GOBBI	31.10.80
6 Alessandro LUCARELLI	22.07.77
24 Massimo PACI	09.05.78
29 Gabriel PALETTA	15.02.86
26 Marco PISANO	13.08.81
5 Cristian ZACCARDO	21.12.81
MIDFIELDERS	
7 Antonio CANDREVA	28.02.87
10 Blerim DZEMAILI (Swi)	12.04.86
14 Daniele GALLOPPA	15.05.85
21 Sebastian GIOVINCO	26.01.87
8 Fernando MARQUES (Spa)	04.12.84
4 Stefano MORRONE	26.10.78
17 Danilo PEREIRA (Por)	09.09.91
34 Filippo SAVI	29.01.87
80 Francesco VALIANI	29.10.80
22 ZE EDUARDO (Bra)	16.08.91
FORWARDS	
86 Valeri BOJINOV (Bul)	15.02.86
9 Hernan CRESPO (Arg)	05.07.75
36 Francesco FINOCCHIO	30.04.92
11 Alberto PALOSCHI	04.01.90
COACH	
Pasquale MARINO	13.07.62

ROMA

GOALKEEPERS	
32 DONI (Bra)	22.10.79
27 JULIO SERGIO (Bra)	08.11.78
1 Bogdan LOBONT (Rom)	18.01.78
40 Alex PENA (Rom)	26.01.90
DEFENDERS	
13 Vitorino ANTUNES (Por)	01.04.87
25 Guillermo BURDISSO (Arg)	26.09.88
29 Nicolas BURDISSO (Arg)	12.04.81
77 Marco CASSETTI	29.05.77
3 Paolo CASTELLINI	25.03.79
2 CICINHO (Bra)	24.06.80
4 JUAN (Bra)	01.02.79
15 Simone LORIA	28.10.76
5 Philippe MEXES (Bra)	30.03.82
44 Sebastian MLADEN (Rom)	11.12.91
17 John Arne RIISE (Nor)	24.09.80
MIDFIELDERS	
19 Julio BAPTISTA (Bra)	01.10.81
33 Matteo BRIGHI	14.02.81
16 Daniele DE ROSSI	24.07.83
23 Leandro GRECO	19.07.86
20 Simone PERROTTA	17.09.77
7 David PIZARRO (Chl)	11.09.79
87 Aleandro ROSI	17.05.87
30 Fabio SIMPLICIO (Bra)	23.09.79
11 Rodrigo TADDEI (Bra)	06.03.80
FORWARDS	
8 ADRIANO (Bra)	17.02.82
22 Marco BORRIELLO	18.06.82
94 Jeremy MENEZ (Fra)	07.05.87
89 Stefano OKAKA	09.08.89
10 Francesco TOTTI	27.09.76
9 Mirko VUCINIC (Mne)	01.10.83
COACH	
Claudio RANIERI	20.10.51

SAMPDORIA

GOALKEEPERS	
85 Gianluca CURCI	12.07.85
22 Vincenzo FIORILLO	13.01.90
1 JUNIOR Costa (Bra)	12.11.83
51 Davide NEGRETTI	19.11.91
DEFENDERS	
5 Pietro ACCARDI	12.09.82
60 Edoardo BLONDETT	07.01.92
19 Fabrizio CACCIATORE	08.10.86
28 Daniele GASTALDELLO	25.06.83
6 Stefano LUCCHINI	02.10.80
24 Jonathan ROSSINI (Swi)	05.04.89
26 Massimo VOLTA	14.05.87
3 Reto ZIEGLER (Swi)	16.01.86
MIDFIELDERS	
4 Daniele DESSENA	10.05.87
8 Stefano GUBERTI	06.11.84
11 Vladimir KOMAN (Hun)	16.03.89
7 Daniele MANNINI	25.10.83
14 Pedro OBIANG (Spa)	27.03.92
20 Marco PADALINO (Swi)	08.12.83
17 Angelo PALOMBO	25.09.81
16 Andrea POLI	29.09.89
21 Paolo SAMMARCO	17.03.83
77 Franco SEMIOLI	20.06.80
12 Fernando TISSONE (Arg)	24.07.86
78 Luciano ZAURI	20.01.78
FORWARDS	
99 Antonio CASSANO	12.07.82
23 Bruno FORNAROLI (Uru)	07.09.87
89 Guido MARILUNGO	09.08.89
10 Giampaolo PAZZINI	02.08.84
9 Nicola POZZI	30.06.86
COACH	
Domenico DI CARLO	23.03.64

UDINESE

GOALKEEPERS	
6 Emanuele BELARDI	09.10.77
1 Samir HANDANOVIC (Sln)	14.07.84
12 Jan KOPRIVEC (CzR)	15.07.88
90 Rafael ROMO (Ven)	25.02.90
DEFENDERS	
45 Gabriele ANGELLA	28.04.89
27 Pablo ARMERO (Col)	02.11.86
17 Medhi BENATIA (Mor)	17.04.87
13 Andrea CODA	25.04.85
4 Juan CUADRADO (Col)	26.05.88
11 Maurizio DOMIZZI	28.06.80
32 Damiano FERRONETTI	01.11.84
3 Mauricio ISLA (Chl)	12.06.88
26 Giovanni PASQUALE	05.01.82
2 Cristian ZAPATA (Col)	30.09.86
MIDFIELDERS	
23 Almen ABDI (Swi)	21.10.86
19 Emmanuel AGYEMANG-BADU (Gha)	02.12.90
20 Kwadwo ASAMOAH (Gha)	09.12.88
8 Dusan BASTA (Ser)	18.08.84
88 Gokhan INLER (Swi)	27.06.84
25 Piermario MOROSINI	05.07.86
66 Giampiero PINZI	11.03.81
FORWARDS	
15 Steve Leo BELECK (Cam)	10.02.93
9 Bernardo CORRADI	30.03.76
10 Antonio DI NATALE	13.10.77
16 German DENIS (Arg)	10.09.81
83 Antonio FLORO FLORES	18.06.83
7 Alexis SANCHEZ (Chl)	19.12.88
21 Matej VYDRA (CzR)	01.05.92
COACH	
Francesco GUIDOLIN	03.10.55

SPAIN PRIMERA DIVISION

ALMERIA

GOALKEEPERS	
31 ALVARO	16.08.88
1 DIEGO ALVES (Bra)	24.06.85
13 ESTEBAN	27.06.75
DEFENDERS	
18 Santiago ACASIETE (Per)	22.11.77
21 CARLOS GARCIA	29.04.84
2 Michael JAKOBSEN (Den)	02.01.86
3 MARCELO SILVA (Uru)	21.03.89
16 MICHEL MACEDO (Bra)	15.02.90
4 Hernan PELLERANO (Arg)	04.06.84
14 Baltasar RIGO	26.06.85
MIDFIELDERS	
25 Hernan BERNARDELLO (Arg)	03.08.86
15 Miguel Angel CORONA	12.02.81
8 Albert CRUSAT	13.05.82
17 JUANMA ORTIZ	01.03.82
26 Miguel Angel LUQUE	23.07.90
19 Modeste M'BAMI (Cam)	09.10.82
7 Miguel Angel NIETO	12.01.86
9 Diego VALERI (Arg)	01.05.86
22 Fabian VARGAS (Col)	17.04.80
FORWARDS	
23 Henok GOITOM (Swe)	16.09.84
10 JOSE ORTIZ	04.08.77
29 JOSE RAMON	31.12.91
11 Pablo PIATTI (Arg)	31.03.89
5 Kalu UCHE (Nig)	15.11.82
20 Leonardo ULLOA (Arg)	26.07.86
COACH	
Juanma LILLO	03.11.65

ATHLETIC BILBAO

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Gorka IRAIZOZ	06.03.81
13 RAUL	13.03.88
DEFENDERS	
20 AITOR OCIO	28.11.76
5 Fernando AMOREBIETA	21.03.85
29 Jon AURTENETXE	03.01.92
19 Mikel BALENZIAGA	29.02.88
22 Xabier CASTILLO	29.03.86
15 Andoni IRAOLA	22.06.82
3 KOIKILI	23.12.80
6 Mikel SAN JOSE	30.05.89
4 USTARITZ	16.02.83
MIDFIELDERS	
7 DAVID LOPEZ	10.09.82
11 Igor GABILONDO	10.02.79
18 Carlos GURPEGI	19.08.80
26 IGOR Martinez	19.07.89
8 Ander ITURRASPE	08.03.89
24 JAVI MARTINEZ	02.09.88
16 Pablo ORBAIZ	06.02.79
17 Inigo PEREZ	18.01.88
14 Markel SUSAETA	14.12.87
FORWARDS	
10 Oscar DE MARCOS	14.04.89
28 IBAI GOMEZ	11.11.89
21 ION VELEZ	17.02.85
9 Fernando LLORENTE	26.02.85
27 Iker MUNIAIN	19.12.92
2 Gaizka TOQUERO	09.08.84
COACH	
Joaquin CAPARROS	13.10.55

ATLETICO MADRID

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Sergio ASENJO	28.06.89
13 David DE GEA	07.11.90
27 JOEL Robles	17.06.90
DEFENDERS	
3 ANTONIO LOPEZ	13.09.81
18 Alvaro DOMINGUEZ	16.05.89
14 FILIPE (Bra)	09.08.85
15 Diego GODIN (Uru)	16.02.86
16 JUANITO	23.07.76
21 Luis Amaranto PEREA (Col)	30.01.79
43 Jorge PULIDO	08.04.91
17 Tomas UJFALUSI (CzR)	24.03.78
2 Juan VALERA	21.12.84
MIDFIELDERS	
12 Paulo ASSUNCAO (Bra)	25.01.80
6 Ignacio CAMACHO	04.05.90
32 KOKE	08.01.92
4 MARIO SUAREZ	24.02.87
11 Fran MERIDA	04.03.90
8 RAUL GARCIA	11.07.86
5 TIAGO (Por)	02.05.81
FORWARDS	
10 Sergio AGUERO (Arg)	02.06.88
29 BORJA Gonzalez	25.08.92
22 DIEGO COSTA (Bra)	07.10.88
7 Diego FORLAN (Uru)	19.05.79
19 Jose Antonio REYES	01.09.83
20 SIMAO (Por)	31.10.79
COACH	
Quique Sanchez FLORES	05.02.65

BARCELONA

GOALKEEPERS	
31 Ruben MINO	18.01.89
38 OIER Olazabal	14.09.89
13 Jose Manuel PINTO	15.11.75
1 Victor VALDES	14.01.82
DEFENDERS	
22 Eric ABIDAL (Fra)	11.07.79
32 Marc BARTRA	15.01.91
2 DANI ALVES (Bra)	06.05.83
19 MAXWELL (Bra)	27.08.81
18 Gabriel MILITO (Arg)	07.09.80
35 Marc MUNIESA	27.03.92
3 Gerard PIQUE	02.02.87
5 Carles PUYOL	13.04.78
33 SERGI Gomez	28.07.92
MIDFIELDERS	
21 ADRIANO (Bra)	26.10.84
16 Sergio BUSQUETS	16.07.88
34 Jonathan DOS SANTOS (Mex)	26.04.90
26 Andreu FONTAS	14.11.89
8 Andres INIESTA	11.05.84
11 JEFFREN	20.01.88
15 Seydou KEITA (Mli)	16.01.80
14 Javier MASCHERANO (Arg)	08.06.84
28 Sergi ROBERTO	07.02.92
37 Oriol ROMEU	24.09.91
30 THIAGO Alcantara	11.04.91
29 Victor VAZQUEZ	20.01.87
6 XAVI	25.01.80
FORWARDS	
9 BOJAN Krkic	28.08.90
10 Lionel MESSI (Arg)	24.06.87
17 PEDRO	28.07.87
7 David VILLA	03.12.81
COACH	
Pep GUARDIOLA	18.01.71

DEPORTIVO LA CORUNA

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Daniel ARANZUBIA	18.09.79
26 FELIPE	10.01.88
13 MANU	09.03.86
DEFENDERS	
23 AYTHAMI	02.04.86
19 Diego COLOTTO (Arg)	03.10.81
15 LAURE	22.03.85
7 Alberto LOPO	05.05.80
3 Claudio MOREL RODRIGUEZ (Par)	02.02.78
2 Manuel PABLO	25.01.76
25 PISCU	25.02.87
32 RAUL Garcia	30.11.88
24 Knut Olav RINDAROY (Nor)	17.07.85
27 David ROCHELA	19.02.90
30 STOPIRA (CVI)	20.05.88
5 ZE CASTRO (Por)	13.01.83
MIDFIELDERS	
14 Pablo ALVAREZ	14.05.80
20 Yves DESMARETS (Fra)	19.07.79
28 Juan DOMINGUEZ	08.01.90
18 Andres GUARDADO (Mex)	28.09.86
6 JUCA (Bra)	19.11.77
9 MICHEL	29.07.88
4 Ruben PEREZ	26.04.89
22 Juan RODRIGUEZ	01.04.82
12 SAUL	09.04.85
16 Antonio TOMAS	19.01.85
17 Jonathan URRETAVIZCAYA (Uru)	19.03.90
21 Juan Carlos VALERON	17.06.75
FORWARDS	
10 ADRIAN Lopez	08.01.88
8 LASSAD Nouioui (Tun)	08.03.85
11 RIKI	11.08.80
COACH	
Miguel Angel LOTINA	18.06.57

MALLORCA

GOALKEEPERS	
13 Dudu AOUATE (Isr)	17.10.77
1 German LUX (Arg)	06.07.82
30 TOMEU Nadal	08.02.89
DEFENDERS	
17 AYOZE	25.05.82
22 Pablo CENDROS	01.04.87
23 Enrique CORRALES	01.03.82
2 EDSON RATINHO (Bra)	31.05.86
29 KEVIN	08.09.89
21 MARTI CRESPI	15.06.87
16 Jose NUNES (Por)	07.03.77
4 Ivan RAMIS	25.10.84
5 RUBEN Gonzalez	29.01.82
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Gonzalo CASTRO (Uru)	14.09.84
20 Jonathan DE GUZMAN (Hol)	13.09.87
3 JOAO VICTOR (Bra)	07.11.88
19 Jose Luis MARTI	28.04.75
7 Michael PEREIRA (Fra)	08.12.87
28 Tomas PINA	14.10.87
27 Sergio TEJERA	28.05.90
15 TUNI	14.06.82
FORWARDS	
10 Fernando CAVENAGHI (Arg)	21.09.83
8 Emilio NSUE	30.09.89
26 SERGI ENRICH	26.02.90
18 VICTOR	28.02.85
9 Pierre WEBO (Cam)	20.01.82
COACH	
Michael LAUDRUP (Den)	15.06.64

OSASUNA

GOALKEEPERS	
26 NACHO ZABAL	14.02.87
1 RICARDO	30.12.71
13 Asier RIESGO	06.10.83
DEFENDERS	
24 DAMIA	15.04.82
14 JOSETXO	25.02.75
5 LOLO	22.08.84
4 MIGUEL FLANO	19.08.84
3 Nacho MONREAL	26.02.86
2 NELSON (Por)	10.06.83
15 OIER Sanjurjo	25.05.86
23 SERGIO Fernandez	23.05.77
MIDFIELDERS	
19 Javier CALLEJA	12.05.78
17 Javier CAMUNAS	17.07.80
12 JUANFRAN	09.01.85
8 MASOUD Shojaei (Irn)	09.06.84
6 Javad NEKOUNAM (Irn)	07.09.80
10 Patxi PUNAL	06.09.75
22 RUPER	04.06.87
20 Fernando SORIANO	24.09.79
21 Krisztian VADOCZ (Hun)	30.05.85
FORWARDS	
7 Carlos ARANDA	27.07.80
9 Dejan LEKIC (Ser)	07.06.85
11 Walter PANDIANI (Uru)	27.04.76
18 Kike SOLA	25.02.86
COACH	
Jose Antonio CAMACHO	08.06.55

RACING SANTANDER

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Fabio COLTORTI (Swi)	03.12.80
25 MARIO FERNANDEZ	30.04.88
13 TONO	17.12.79
DEFENDERS	
3 CHRISTIAN FERNANDEZ	15.10.85
6 DOMINGO CISMA	09.02.82
15 FRANCIS	17.12.81
2 HENRIQUE (Bra)	14.10.86
4 OSMAR Barba	08.06.88
14 Pablo PINILLOS	09.07.74
24 Waldo PONCE (Chl)	04.12.82
19 Marc TORREJON	18.02.86
MIDFIELDERS	
23 ADRIAN Gonzalez	25.05.88
17 Manuel ARANA	03.12.84
8 Gonzalo COLSA	11.05.79
21 Papakouli DIOP (Sen)	19.03.86
18 EDU BEDIA	23.03.89
16 KENNEDY Bakircioglu (Swe)	02.11.80
5 Mehdi LACEN (Alg)	15.03.84
11 OSCAR SERRANO	30.09.81
20 Alexandros TZIOLIS (Gre)	13.02.85
FORWARDS	
22 ARIEL Nahuelpan (Arg)	15.10.87
9 IVAN BOLADO	03.07.89
32 Julian LUQUE	27.03.92
10 Pedro MUNITIS	19.06.75
7 Markus ROSENBERG (Swe)	27.09.82
COACH	
Miguel Angel PORTUGAL	28.11.55

REAL MADRID

GOALKEEPERS	
13 Antonio ADAN	13.05.87
1 Iker CASILLAS	20.05.81
25 Jerzy DUDEK (Pol)	23.03.73
DEFENDERS	
18 Raul ALBIOL	04.09.85
17 Alvaro ARBELOA	17.01.83
2 Ricardo CARVALHO (Por)	18.05.78
19 Ezequiel GARAY (Arg)	10.10.86
12 MARCELO (Bra)	12.05.88
15 David MATEOS	22.04.87
3 PEPE (Por)	26.02.83
4 SERGIO RAMOS	30.03.86
MIDFIELDERS	
16 Sergio CANALES	16.02.91
26 Juan CARLOS	30.03.90
10 Lassana DIARRA (Fra)	10.03.85
6 Mahamadou DIARRA (Mli)	18.05.81
5 Fernando GAGO (Arg)	10.04.86
11 Esteban GRANERO	02.07.87
24 Sami KHEDIRA (Ger)	04.04.87
21 Pedro LEON	24.11.86
23 Mesut OZIL (Ger)	15.10.88
14 XABI ALONSO	25.11.81
FORWARDS	
9 Karim BENZEMA (Fra)	19.12.87
7 CRISTIANO RONALDO (Por)	05.02.85
22 Angel DI MARIA (Arg)	14.02.88
20 Gonzalo HIGUAIN (Arg)	10.12.87
8 KAKA (Bra)	22.04.82
COACH	
Jose MOURINHO (Por)	26.01.63

REAL SOCIEDAD

GOALKEEPERS	
1 Claudio BRAVO (Chl)	13.04.83
30 TONO Ramirez	23.11.86
13 Enaut ZUBIKARAI	26.02.84
DEFENDERS	
15 Ion ANSOTEGI	13.07.82
2 CARLOS MARTINEZ	09.04.86
24 Alberto DE LA BELLA	02.12.85
6 Mikel LABAKA	10.08.80
3 MIKEL GONZALEZ	24.09.85
MIDFIELDERS	
11 Mikel ARANBURU	18.02.79
5 Markel BERGARA	05.05.86
4 Gorka ELUSTONDO	18.03.87
22 Dani ESTRADA	03.01.87
26 Asier ILLARRAMENDI	08.03.90
19 Diego RIVAS	27.04.80
14 Jeffrey SARPONG (Hol)	03.08.88
10 XABI PRIETO	29.08.83
17 David ZURUTUZA	19.07.86
FORWARDS	
9 Imanol AGIRRETXE	24.02.87
7 Antoine GRIEZMANN (Fra)	21.03.91
21 Diego IFRAN (Uru)	08.06.87
8 Joseba LLORENTE	24.11.79
23 Francisco SUTIL	21.12.84
20 Raul TAMUDO	19.10.77
18 Borja VIGUERA	26.03.87
COACH	
Martin LASARTE (Uru)	20.03.61

ESPANYOL

GOALKEEPERS		
25	Cristian ALVAREZ (Arg)	13.11.85
1	Carlos KAMENI (Cam)	18.02.84
26	Dinu MOLDOVAN (Rom)	03.05.90
DEFENDERS		
27	Jordi AMAT	21.03.92
2	CHICA	17.05.85
3	DAVID GARCIA	16.01.81
5	DIDAC	09.06.89
18	Juan FORLIN (Arg)	10.01.88
14	Ernesto GALAN	17.06.86
15	Felipe MATTIONI (Bra)	15.10.88
6	Victor RUIZ	25.01.89
MIDFIELDERS		
7	Raul BAENA	02.03.89
23	Jesus DATOLO (Arg)	19.05.84
9	Ivan DE LA PENA	06.05.76
22	Aldo DUSCHER (Arg)	22.03.79
16	Javi LOPEZ	21.01.86
33	David LOPEZ	09.10.89
4	Javi MARQUEZ	11.05.86
29	Manu MOLINA	20.11.91
31	Pau SENENT	03.05.92
11	Joan VERDU	05.05.83
FORWARDS		
24	Ivan ALONSO (Uru)	10.04.79
8	Jose CALLEJON	11.02.87
20	CORO	05.01.83
35	Rui FONTE (Por)	23.03.90
10	LUIS GARCIA	06.02.81
17	Pablo OSVALDO (Ita)	12.01.86
19	SERGIO GARCIA	09.06.83
28	Alvaro VAZQUEZ	27.04.91
COACH		
	Mauricio POCHETTINO (Arg)	02.03.72

GETAFE

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Jordi CODINA	27.04.82
31	JESUS	09.05.93
1	Oscar USTARI (Arg)	03.07.86
DEFENDERS		
30	ALEJANDRO	11.08.91
2	CATA DIAZ (Arg)	13.03.79
4	IBRAHIM Kas (Tur)	20.09.86
29	GERARD	24.07.92
3	MANE	22.12.81
23	Ivan MARCANO	23.06.87
5	Pedro MARIO	02.02.82
24	MIGUEL TORRES	28.01.86
20	Pablo PINTOS (Uru)	01.07.87
15	RAFA	09.04.85
MIDFIELDERS		
33	ANGEL LUIS	18.06.92
18	Derek BOATENG (Gha)	02.05.83
6	BORJA Fernandez	14.01.81
32	Adrian CANAS	17.06.92
22	Javi CASQUERO	19.08.76
28	Alberto ESCASI	28.02.89
8	Jaime GAVILAN	12.05.85
21	Pedro MOSQUERA	21.04.88
11	Daniel PAREJO	16.04.89
16	Pedro RIOS	12.12.81
17	Victor SANCHEZ	08.09.87
FORWARDS		
10	Juan ALBIN (Uru)	17.07.86
19	Javier ARIZMENDI	03.03.84
9	Adrian COLUNGA	17.11.84
14	MANU Del Moral	25.02.84
7	MIKU (Ven)	19.08.85
27	Adrian SARDINERO	13.10.90
COACH		
	MICHEL	15.03.57

HERCULES

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Juan CATALAYUD	21.12.79
13	UNAI ALBA	19.02.78
25	Piet VELTHUIZEN (Hol)	03.11.86
DEFENDERS		
5	ABRAHAM PAZ	14.03.79
21	David CORTES	29.08.79
3	JUANRA	24.04.80
16	PACO PENA	25.07.78
23	Noe PAMAROT (Fra)	14.04.79
12	Cristian PULHAC (Rom)	17.08.84
19	RODRI	17.08.84
MIDFIELDERS		
2	Royston DRENTHE (Hol)	08.04.87
8	Javier FARINOS	29.03.78
18	Matias FRITZLER (Arg)	23.08.86
15	KIKO	02.02.91
27	Jesus PASTOR (Ven)	27.04.93
7	Francisco RUFETE	20.11.76
4	Mohamed SARR (Sen)	23.12.83
11	SENDOA	31.12.75
22	Olivier THOMERT (Fra)	28.05.80
24	TIAGO GOMES (Por)	18.08.85
FORWARDS		
14	ABEL AGUILAR	06.01.85
6	CRISTIAN	21.09.83
26	Eldin HADZIC (Bos)	14.10.91
9	Javier PORTILLO	30.03.82
10	TOTE	23.11.78
17	David TREZEGUET (Fra)	15.10.77
20	Nelson Haedo VALDEZ (Par)	28.11.83
COACH		
	Esteban VIGO	17.01.55

LEVANTE

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Gustavo MUNUA (Uru)	27.01.78
1	Manolo REINA	01.04.85
DEFENDERS		
18	Sergio BALLESTEROS	04.09.75
2	CERRA	04.08.83
15	Asier DEL HORNO	19.01.81
17	JAVI VENTA	13.12.75
12	JUANFRAN	15.07.76
3	NANO	07.07.80
5	Miguel ROBUSTE	20.05.85
4	Hector RODAS	07.03.88
MIDFIELDERS		
20	JUANLU	08.05.80
8	Gorka LARREA	07.04.84
11	MIGUEL PEREZ	28.05.80
6	Miguel PALLARDO	05.06.86
16	SERGIO Gonzalez	10.11.76
14	XAVI TORRES	21.11.86
19	XISCO Munoz	05.09.80
FORWARDS		
25	Felipe CAICEDO (Ecu)	05.09.88
10	Vicente IBORRA	16.01.88
24	NACHO Gonzalez (Uru)	14.05.82
9	RAFA JORDA	11.01.84
21	RUBEN	19.02.79
22	Christian STUANI (Uru)	12.10.86
23	VALDO	23.04.81
7	XISCO NADAL	27.06.86
COACH		
	LUIS GARCIA	01.12.72

MALAGA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Francesc ARNAU	23.03.75
13	GALATTO (Bra)	10.04.83
28	Fran MANCILLA	19.01.88
25	RUBEN	22.06.84
DEFENDERS		
2	Jesus GAMEZ	10.04.85
14	HELDER ROSARIO (Por)	09.03.80
6	IVAN GONZALEZ	15.02.88
15	Javier MALAGUENO (Arg)	27.10.82
20	MANOLO Gaspar	03.02.81
4	MANU TORRES	14.08.89
19	Patrick MTILIGA (Den)	28.01.81
12	Kris STADSGAARD (Den)	01.08.85
3	WELIGTON (Bra)	26.08.79
MIDFIELDERS		
10	APONO	13.02.84
17	DUDA (Por)	27.06.80
16	EDU RAMOS	17.02.92
18	ELISEU (Por)	01.10.83
11	Sebastian FERNANDEZ (Uru)	23.05.85
24	JUANITO	17.02.80
21	Quincy OWUSU-ABEYIE (Gha)	15.04.86
27	Francisco PORTILLO	13.06.90
22	Sandro SILVA (Bra)	29.04.84
FORWARDS		
7	Nabil BAHA (Mor)	12.08.81
9	EDINHO (Por)	07.07.82
8	FERNANDO	02.06.79
26	JUANMI	20.05.93
5	Albert LUQUE	11.03.78
23	Salomon RONDON (Ven)	16.09.89
COACH		
	Jesualdo FERREIRA (Por)	24.05.46

REAL ZARAGOZA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	Antonio DOBLAS	05.08.80
25	Leo FRANCO (Arg)	20.05.77
DEFENDERS		
4	Matteo CONTINI (Ita)	16.04.80
2	Carlos DIOGO (Uru)	18.07.83
21	Jiri JAROSIK (CzR)	27.10.77
26	Victor LAGUARDIA	05.11.89
6	Maurizio LANZARO (Ita)	14.03.82
24	Ivan OBRADOVIC (Ser)	25.07.88
3	Javier PAREDES	05.07.82
23	Leonardo PONZIO (Arg)	29.01.82
MIDFIELDERS		
8	ANDER Herrera	14.08.89
10	Nicolas BERTOLO (Arg)	02.01.86
20	Said BOUTAHAR (Hol)	12.08.82
5	EDMILSON (Bra)	10.07.76
14	GABI	10.07.83
7	JORGE LOPEZ	19.09.78
29	KEVIN Lacruz	13.02.92
17	Angel LAFITA	07.08.84
22	Adam PINTER (Hun)	12.06.88
FORWARDS		
16	BRAULIO	18.09.85
18	Marco PEREZ (Col)	18.09.90
12	Florent SINAMA PONGOLLE (Fra)	20.10.84
9	Ikechukwu UCHE (Nig)	05.01.84
COACH		
	Jose Aurelio GAY	10.12.65

SEVILLA

GOALKEEPERS		
29	Dani JIMENEZ	05.03.90
33	JULIAN	28.03.91
1	Andres PALOP	22.10.73
13	Javi VARAS	10.09.82
DEFENDERS		
23	ALEXIS	04.08.85
4	Martin CACERES (Uru)	07.04.87
20	Mouhamadou DABO (Sen)	28.11.86
3	Ivica DRAGUTINOVIC (Ser)	13.11.75
14	Julien ESCUDE (Fra)	17.08.79
2	Federico FAZIO (Arg)	17.03.87
5	FERNANDO NAVARRO	25.06.82
24	Abdoulay KONKO (Fra)	09.03.84
27	Antonio LUNA	17.03.91
17	SERGIO SANCHEZ	03.04.86
MIDFIELDERS		
21	Lautaro ACOSTA (Arg)	14.03.88
16	Diego CAPEL	16.02.88
19	Luca CIGARINI (Ita)	20.06.86
25	Tiberio GUARENTE (Ita)	01.11.85
30	JOSE CARLOS	17.07.87
7	Jesus NAVAS	21.11.85
9	Diego PEROTTI (Arg)	26.07.88
11	RENATO (Bra)	15.05.79
6	ROMARIC (IvC)	04.06.83
8	Didier ZOKORA (IvC)	14.12.80
FORWARDS		
15	Alejandro ALFARO	23.11.86
12	Frederic KANOUTE (Mli)	02.09.77
22	Arouna KONE (IvC)	11.11.83
10	LUIS FABIANO (Bra)	08.11.80
18	Alvaro NEGREDO	20.08.85
31	RODRI	06.06.90
COACH		
	Gregorio MANZANO	11.03.56

SPORTING GIJON

GOALKEEPERS		
13	Ivan CUELLAR	25.05.84
1	JUAN PABLO	02.09.78
DEFENDERS		
2	Alberto BOTIA	27.01.89
15	Roberto CANELLA	07.02.88
12	GREGORY Amorim (Fra)	10.11.80
14	IVAN HERNANDEZ	27.02.80
4	JORGE Garcia	18.01.84
3	JOSE ANGEL	05.09.89
11	Alberto LORA	25.03.87
25	Javi POVES	28.09.86
22	Rafael SASTRE	22.10.75
MIDFIELDERS		
26	Sergio ALVAREZ	23.01.92
7	AYOZE	22.11.85
6	CARMELO	09.07.83
20	Miguel DE LAS CUEVAS	19.06.86
17	DIEGO CASTRO	02.07.82
19	Sebastian EGUREN (Uru)	08.01.81
21	Marcos LANDEIRA	12.05.87
24	Sergio MATABUENA	12.02.79
18	Luis MORAN	26.07.87
16	Cristian PORTILLA	28.08.88
5	Alberto RIVERA	19.02.78
FORWARDS		
23	David BARRAL	10.05.83
9	Mate BILIC (Cro)	23.10.80
10	NACHO NOVO	26.03.79
8	Gaston SANGOY (Arg)	05.10.84
COACH		
	Manuel PRECIADO	28.0857

VALENCIA

GOALKEEPERS		
1	CESAR Sanchez	02.09.71
13	Vicente GUAITA	18.02.87
25	Miguel Angel MOYA	02.04.84
DEFENDERS		
2	BRUNO Saltor	01.10.81
4	DAVID NAVARRO	25.05.80
15	Angel DEALBERT	01.01.83
33	David FORNIES	06.02.91
29	JOEL	20.09.92
3	Hedwiges MADURO (Hol)	13.02.85
22	Jeremy MATHIEU (Fra)	29.10.83
23	MIGUEL (Por)	04.01.80
20	RICARDO COSTA (Por)	16.05.81
17	Marius STANKEVICIUS (Lit)	15.07.81
MIDFIELDERS		
28	Jordi ALBA	21.03.89
6	David ALBELDA	01.09.77
21	Ever BANEGA (Arg)	29.06.88
18	Manuel FERNANDES (Por)	05.02.86
35	IVAN Rubio	01.03.91
7	JOAQUIN	21.07.81
19	PABLO Hernandez	11.04.85
36	PORTU	21.05.92
24	TINO COSTA (Arg)	09.01.85
5	Mehmet TOPAL (Tur)	03.03.86
14	VICENTE	16.07.81
FORWARDS		
11	Aritz ADURIZ	11.02.81
8	Alejandro DOMINGUEZ (Arg)	10.06.81
12	Sofiane FEGHOULI (Fra)	26.12.89
34	KIKE	10.02.91
10	Juan MATA	28.04.88
9	Roberto SOLDADO	27.05.85
COACH		
	Unai EMERY	03.11.71

VILLARREAL

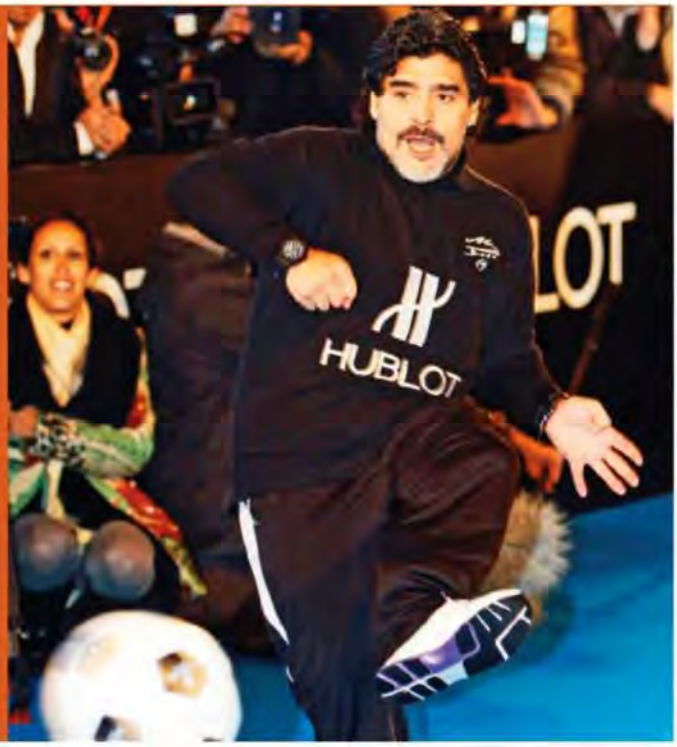
GOALKEEPERS		
13	DIEGO LOPEZ	03.11.81
25	JUAN CARLOS	27.07.87
29	Diego MARINO	09.05.90
1	Xavi OLIVA	29.05.76
DEFENDERS		
6	ANGEL	10.03.81
11	Joan CAPDEVILA	03.02.78
15	Jose CATALA	31.12.84
2	GONZALO Rodriguez (Arg)	10.04.84
3	JOAN ORIOL	05.11.86
26	KIKO	21.08.88
5	Carlos MARCHENA	31.07.79
27	MARIO	24.11.90
4	Mateo MUSACCHIO (Arg)	26.08.90
MIDFIELDERS		
21	BRUNO	12.06.84
10	CANI	03.08.81
8	Santi CAZORLA	13.12.84
18	CRISTOBAL	21.04.84
28	Marcos GULLON	20.02.89
17	Javier MATILLA	01.01.88
19	Marcos SENNA	17.07.76
20	Borja VALERO	21.01.85
FORWARDS		
12	Jozy ALTIDORE (USA)	06.11.89
23	Jefferson MONTERO (Ecu)	01.09.89
7	NILMAR (Bra)	14.07.84
22	Giuseppe ROSSI (Ita)	01.02.87
9	Marco RUBEN (Arg)	26.10.86
COACH		
	Juan Carlos GARRIDO	29.03.69

Famous Last Words

Who said what and why

"I'm angry with myself. I really wanted to win the maximum for the Russian kids"

Ahead of his 50th birthday, Diego Maradona misses two shots out of 10 in a charity shoot-out in Moscow and has to make do with $500,000 for good causes rather than the $1m jackpot



"Our directors are giving excessive power to young players. It can have a terrible effect on a squad"
Brazil World Cup-winning captain Cafu ponders the "too much, too young" question after Santos sack coach Dorival Junior following a foul-mouthed tirade from starlet Neymar

"You need to rid European football pitches of this kind of player"
Marseille president Jean-Claude Dassier after Manchester City's Nigel De Jong injured Hatem Ben Arfa, on loan from the French club at Newcastle United

"I can assure you that Giuseppe Rossi never nutmegged me – if he had, he wouldn't be able to walk anymore!"
Giorgio Chiellini refutes his Italy team-mate's post-training session claim

Training session...Rossi (left) and Chiellini

"I haven't spoken to Alessandro Diamanti yet as I'm so angry that I risk beating him up"
Brescia president Gino Corioni after seeing his striker sent off against Lazio

"One of the worst days of my career"
Turkey coach Guus Hiddink after his side lost 1-0 to Azerbaijan

"I miss English football and English football misses me. I like English football because the matches only last 90 minutes. In Spain and in Italy there's the pre-game and post-game"
Jose Mourinho courts the English media again

Nightmare...Hiddink

"He isn't used to working. He mixes with certain people who tell him he doesn't need to. They are false friends"
France coach Laurent Blanc advises rejuvenated international Karim Benzema to make a point of not resting on his laurels

"I've been unfairly attacked, mainly via my sons. I can't allow this cowardly feud to continue using my family. Today, my grandson Alberto was born but Flamengo died in my heart"
Zico quits as a director of Flamengo following disagreements with other board members

"We are going nowhere"
Out of form at a struggling club, Koln poster boy Lukas Podolski suddenly realises that the "never go back" naysayers were right

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